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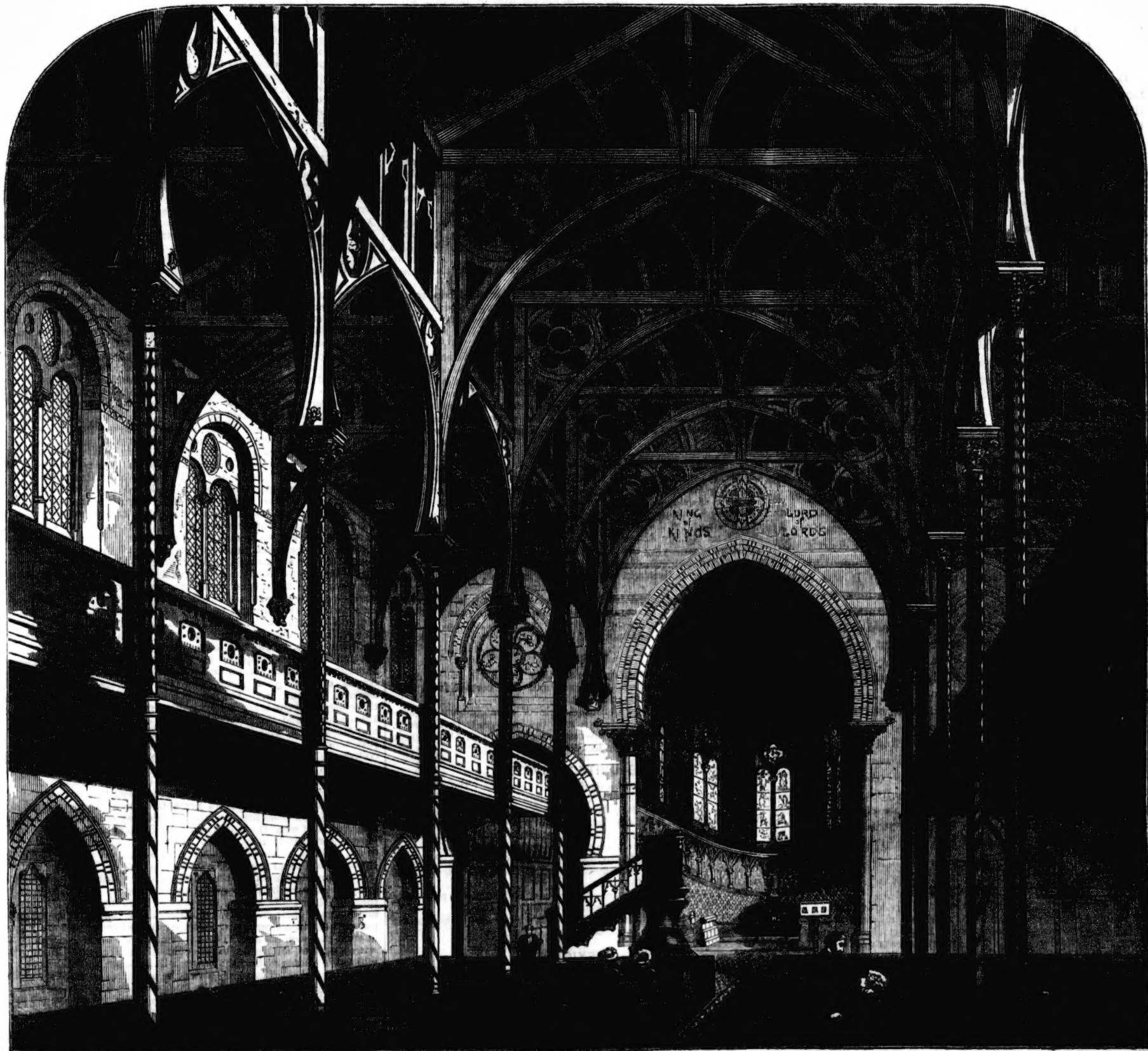
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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

WHILE Cabinet Ministers are resigning, and Conservative chiefs are still undecided whether to oppose the demands of the Liberals on the Reform question or to render them powerless for some time to come by offering more even than they ask, it is idle for outsiders to speculate as to what course will really be adopted. But it appears certain that the advisability of introducing household suffrage as the main principle of the new bill has at least been discussed in the Cabinet; and a curious letter from Lord Brougham to Mr. Gladstone (or "Mr. G.," as he oddly enough calls him) has been published, in which the writer affirms that household suffrage was seriously contemplated as one of the fundamental clauses of the Reform Bill of 1832.

There is much to be said at the present time in favour of a household suffrage, and that from a Conservative Government, if not from a truly Conservative point of view. A leap in the dark has to be made, and it might as well be made to what at least *looks* like a permanent resting-place as not. No one can tell what the effect of giving votes to eight, seven, and six pounders would be. No one knows, for instance, whether £6 householders as a class would be inclined to vote for men only a little above them or for men very much above them in the social scale. We may safely say that they would, as a general principle, be in favour of lightening taxation as much as possible; but, on the other hand, they would not be so likely as the purely commercial class to oppose a warlike policy, if a warlike policy

seemed necessary for the honour of the country, and war and taxes, as a matter of course, go together. The effect of the introduction into the constituencies of a large democratic element cannot be calculated. But it is certain that a "popular" candidate need not necessarily be a man of the people; and that any aristocratic candidate, if he is aristocratic in the high sense of the word, will always be listened to with respect, even by a mob—perhaps above all by a mob. What chance, for instance, would Mr. Beales have had against Lord Palmerston in appealing to an English crowd composed of no matter what class, or of all classes? And are there not plenty of towns in England where, if the Earl of Derby and Mr. George Potter appeared on the hustings together, the show of hands, on the



INTERIOR OF EALING NEW CHURCH.

part of the entire population, would be greatly in favour of the former?

The introduction of a reform bill based on household suffrage by a Tory Government would have one curious effect. It would destroy the Whig party altogether; while it is not at all sure that numerous Tory candidates would not, for the sake of their personal qualities and the prestige of their position, be returned by popular constituencies. Of course, the Conservative party, as such, would also be destroyed; and the great contest in English political life would be between aristocrats and democrats. To suppose that men of great wealth and of hereditary local influence would be deprived of all power by an increase, no matter how extensive, of the electoral body, seems to us absurd. Indeed, it is very possible that danger may lie in quite an opposite direction. In the old quasi-republican days of Hungary and Poland the rich aristocrats used to count their supporters among the poorer voters by thousands; and in a country like England, where so much respect exists for rank and wealth, it would, under a system of household suffrage, be, in all probability, the same. We are now speaking of influence naturally and legitimately exerted. But let us suppose that a rich, ambitious, and not very scrupulous man (as scrupulous, let us say, as rich and ambitious men usually are) found himself the proprietor of several hundred £5 houses, then does anyone imagine, whatever bribery laws might say to the contrary, that he would not be in a position to command at any time at least a hundred or two hundred votes? He could, in fact, use the same influence that is now exercised by landed proprietors over their poorer tenants. In short, the introduction of a general household suffrage would call into existence all sorts of voters, worthy and unworthy, who would return to Parliament all sorts of worthy and unworthy representatives. No one is in a position to say which class in particular should profit by such a change; but we cannot think that it would have the exclusive effect of strengthening the Radical party. Only, the Whigs would no longer be Whigs. They would have to divide—those inclined to Radicalism becoming Radicals, those inclined to Toryism becoming Tories. As we said before, a leap in the dark is meditated; and it is not very profitable to speculate as to its probable effects.

It is not only at home that Constitutional changes are being made. In France, news as to the giving out of fresh doses of liberty is constantly reaching us. Each time we are told that now the "edifice" is really being "crowned;" but, on examination, it appears that only a few Administrative changes have been made. Rules are relaxed on some points, tightened on others. On the whole, however, the modified press régime must be favourable to journalism; for we find that numerous applications are being made to establish new journals. On the other hand, when we hear from day to day that English papers, habitually written in a moderate tone, have been stopped in the Post Office, we are enabled to form a very good idea as to the amount of liberty allowed to political critics writing in the French language. Perhaps, after all, the sudden desire which has just seized a number of Frenchmen to bring out new papers is attributable to the universal belief in Paris that the great Exhibition is destined to prove a mine of wealth to all who will take the trouble to work it. That it will be a magnificent display can scarcely be doubted. It will be the finest, and much the most attractive, thing of the kind that has yet been known; and it will also have a good moral effect if it help to encourage the honourable pride the French have of late years begun to take in the development of their commerce and manufactures.

In the Austrian empire there is also an edifice to be crowned—that is to say, the re-establishment of the Hungarian Constitution (with certain indispensable modifications) has to be celebrated by the crowning of the Emperor as King of Hungary—a ceremony which, we believe, will shortly take place. In the meanwhile the Austrian Government may be congratulated on its wisdom, however tardy. It was foolish in the extreme to try to devise constitutions when the Emperor, as King of Hungary, had a Constitution of six hundred years' growth ready to his hand. Instead of improvising charter after charter, and patent after patent, and seeking to force these abortive inventions upon Hungary in common with the rest of the empire, the best thing would have been to extend the Hungarian Constitution, or, at least, its general principles, to Bohemia, Galicia, and the various kingdoms, duchies, and countries which together form the Austrian State. That course, perhaps, will be adopted when it has been seen how the restored Constitution works in Hungary. In the meanwhile all English politicians who recognise the necessity of Austria's continued existence as a strong Power must be glad to find that the feud of nearly twenty years standing between the Austrian Government and the powerful and chivalrous kingdom of Hungary has at length come to an end.

EALING CHURCH.

MR. S. S. TEULON having been requested to design a new chancel for Ealing Church, adopted a style which is a mixture of Byzantine and Louis Quatorze, but somewhat in keeping with the main building. It is apsidal in plan. Other improvements were decided upon. The windows were removed and new ones of Bath stone, with single shafts and mullions, with chamfered capitals and coloured-brick semicircular arches, inserted. About this time the roof was discovered to be rotten, and in a dangerous state; consequently a new roof was put on, partly supported upon cast-iron columns, from which and from the walls semicircular moulded ribs spring from east to west and from north to south. The timbers are stained and the spaces between the rafters and diagonal braces are plastered. The cast-iron columns, which have foliated wrought-iron caps, and are painted in the Byzantine style, also support a gallery running

along both sides of the nave. Passages were next built on both sides of the church, in order to increase the size and improve the architecture. These nave windows are of Bath stone. The walls of the church were reduced to piers, and segmental arches of coloured bricks were introduced to support the weight of the thick walls and throw it upon the piers. The church has also been reseated with deal and oak stalls; and an altar-rail of the same material has been introduced into the chancel. The pulpit is of oak. A baptistery, a vestry, and a new chapel for the Dean have been built, as well as two entrance-porches in harmony with the building. It is a pity the tower could not be recast, as it not only destroys the whole effect, but occupies the most conspicuous position. The church was reconsecrated some months since by the Bishop of London.

Our Engraving shows the interior of the reconstructed edifice, which is now one of the handsomest churches in the diocese.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

It is rumoured in Paris that the Government is making preparations for an expedition against Morocco, and that the command in chief will be conferred on General Fleury. What pretext the Government of Morocco has given for this hostile proceeding is known to no one, and it is probable that the *Etendard* is correct in denying that any such expedition is intended. M. Thiers has given the required notice of an interpellation in the Corps Législatif on the subject of foreign affairs, and the debate consequent on it is expected to come off on Monday next.

M. Etoile de Girardin, principal editor of *La Liberté*, has been fined 5000f. by the Sixth Chamber of Correctional Police of Paris, for a political libel on the Government of the Emperor. This case is of special interest, as it will probably be the last under the existing press laws.

ITALY.

It is stated that the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs has addressed a circular note to the diplomatic agents of Italy at foreign Courts explaining the present relations existing between the Italian and Papal Governments.

A rumour that the Pope, in an audience with M. Langrand-Dumonceau, had neither approved nor disapproved the scheme for the liquidation of the Church property in Italy is officially denied. No uncertainty was shown with regard to the subject, the Pope having at once expressed his disapprobation of the project.

PRUSSIA.

The arrangement which has been concluded between the Prussian Government and the Duke of Nassau stipulates that the latter shall retain four of the ducal castles, including that of Biberich, some forests, and half the revenues of the former ducal domains. It is also stipulated that 36,000 fl. are to be paid annually as an appanage for the Duke's eldest male offspring.

The North German Parliament has resolved to discuss the draught Constitution in full sitting. A curious statement is made by the *Provincial Correspondence*. It is that the Government will not object to the publication of truthful reports of the proceedings of the Parliament, provided that the speakers keep within proper limits—that is to say, that so long as nothing is said offensive to the Government the debates may be published.

AUSTRIA.

Though the Hungarian question is apparently likely to be satisfactorily settled, Austria's troubles are not over. Croatia objects to the plan for the reorganisation of the army; and, as the Imperial Government insists on its being carried out, several of the Croatian authorities have tendered their resignations.

The proposal to summon an Austrian Parliament is not received by all the provinces with great approval. The Emperor, therefore, dissolves the Diets of those provinces who oppose his policy. This has been done with the Diets of Moravia and Carinthia. The Galician Diet has resolved upon sending deputies to the Austrian Parliament by 99 votes to 34.

The Austrian Minister of War has issued two circulars to the military authorities informing them that the appointment of the Hungarian Ministry will not affect the unity of the army.

RUSSIA.

Four despatches, principally addressed to Baron Brunnow, the Russian Ambassador in London, have been published in St. Petersburg, giving a sketch of the attitude and policy of the Russian Government in the Eastern question. They are preceded by a preamble, giving as the reason for the unusual course taken in publishing them the serious nature of the present state of things and the lively interest taken by the Russian nation in its co-religionists.

In the first despatch, dated Aug. 20, 1866, the Government of the Czar proposes collective action on the part of England, France, and Russia, in order to arrive at a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Candia, pointing out the danger of indifference to the questions at issue and of delay in bringing them to a solution.

The second despatch, dated Sept. 12 of the same year, explains that the views of the Russian Government in the Candian question are of an entirely disinterested nature, and lays stress upon the necessity of satisfying the legitimate demands of the Cretans.

The third despatch, of Oct. 27, contains a statement of various efforts made by Russia in favour of the Servians, but which had been without result.

The fourth despatch, dated Nov. 23, points out that, in the opinion of Russia, the most favourable solution for promoting the wellbeing of the Christian population would be the establishment of their autonomy under the suzerainty of the Porte.

TURKEY.

Advices from Constantinople assert that the Porte has formally agreed to the concessions to Servia, and that certain fresh concessions will also be made to Egypt.

A rumour had reached Constantinople of a sanguinary engagement between the Turkish troops and the insurgents in Thessaly. The latter had intrenched themselves on the plain of Orta, where they repulsed the Turks, who lost 300 men.

THE UNITED STATES.

The Congress has turned a deaf ear to the reasons the President gave against agreeing to the bill for the military government of the South, and has passed the bill over his veto. In his veto message Mr. Johnson says that he has no Constitutional power to adopt or execute such a bill when its object is not to maintain order, but to coerce the Southern people into principles they oppose, and in reference to which they have a right to use their own judgment. President Johnson reiterates his recommendation that all loyal representatives should be admitted to Congress.

The Kentucky Legislature had passed a resolution protesting against the establishment of military rule in the South.

The Senate has sustained the President's veto on the bill for the admission of Colorado as a State of the Union.

MEXICO.

Republican accounts received from Matamoros to Feb. 15 represent Miramon to have been totally defeated by Escobedo. Juarez had returned to Zacatecas. The news received through Imperialist sources states that Miramon was successful. An Imperialist squadron had attacked and totally defeated a Republican flotilla near Campeachy. Intelligence from Mexico city announces that the Emperor Maximilian took the field on the 19th ult. He moved northward with 6000 men, and routed Carvajal, killing or capturing the whole of the latter's forces.

THE PARIS UNIVERSAL EXHIBITION.

The special correspondent of the *Times*, writing from Paris on Sunday, says:—

"Since Friday the building has been nominally closed against the receipt of heavy goods, except such as the owners may now wish to display without hope of prizes. Such, according to the last decision of the Imperial Commissioners, is to be the rule; and the only consolation I can give to such as are late is that, according to present appearances, they will form about 90 per cent of those who exhibit at all. It is needless now to say that the heavy goods cannot be in time, for the time fixed is past, and not a tithe have arrived; and, as I said before, I do not think that much more than half are yet in France. The 1st of May, I believe, will not see them all fixed. The very foundations for Mr. Penn's magnificent marine engines in the Supplementary Exhibition on the Seine are not quite completed, and the engines themselves are still in hundreds of packing-cases at Rouen. Krupp's single steel ingot, which is said to weigh 35 tons, and for which a special railway car on sixteen wheels has been constructed, has not arrived, nor his great steel gun. The machinery of Whitworth, Platt, and Maudslay is, I am told, still en route; though the day of grace—at least, as far as hopes of honours are concerned—is past. Yet the English, in their machinery display, are, and have been throughout, in advance of other countries; in fact, there is very little yet in the machine circle which does not belong to Great Britain. In the face of such facts, it is clear the Imperial Commissioners will have to withdraw their last notice about exclusion from prize competition of those who are now late. If such an announcement had been made six months ago there would have been no objection to it; but to issue the fiat at the last moment, when the Seine was overflowed and the railway overworked, seems rather hard, especially upon those many exhibitors who have been detained by the floods at Rouen for some four or five weeks past. Light goods are coming in very briskly, and more particularly to the English section, which has received more than 2000 packages during the last week. If the same energy is only shown by our exhibitors for the next few days, the British Court may still be among the first which are ready. So many, however, are even at this late hour applying to have their allotments changed, their space enlarged or reduced, that it will take some time to get them all in order. The building just now is in great confusion, and the dust almost intolerable. Indeed, every day shows that the ventilation of the whole structure, never at any time good, has been quite destroyed by the crowds of partitions which cross, recross, and intersect each other in all directions. The dust, once raised—and it is always being raised—seems never to subside again. Early in the morning or late at night, the thick, stifling haze is always there like a fog. In some parts the dust is literally ankle deep, and every attempt at removal only makes matters worse by disturbing instead of removing. If the boards were laid at intervals of half an inch, a single day would suffice to get rid of it; but, with the planks laid close, it promises to be not only an annoyance but a source of real damage to all goods not protected by cases within the building.

"These remarks, however, do not refer so much to the picture-galleries. This circle is the innermost of all but one—that abutting on the garden, in which the objects illustrative of industrial progress are to be shown. The picture-gallery walls are built of solid stone, and, except for the circular form, it is almost precisely similar to the great English galleries in 1862. The circular shape, however, has many drawbacks, especially in the case of the less powerful, but not by any means (artistically speaking) less important, countries that exhibit, which sometimes find themselves confined to such a minute, wedge-shaped segment of a circle that in many places it will literally be difficult to see one picture without putting your back against another. This objection does not, of course, apply to the English portion of the circle. There, as in everything else relating to space, the Imperial Commission has behaved most liberally. All the galleries are uniform as to height and width, and means of lighting from the roof. The French and all foreign galleries, or rather picture-rooms, save the English, are painted with dull red. Against this colour, however, the English Commission stood firm in opposition. The struggle was for a time doubtful, but at last the Imperial Commission gave way and allowed the English gallery to be coloured as the English wished. It has accordingly been painted a very pale neutral green—in fact, a kind of tint which is as near an approach as possible to being no colour at all; and on this, of course, the paintings will show to advantage. The sight line for hanging the pictures has, however, been carried rather too low, and at least a foot or more lower than in other collections. Beneath the glass and iron roofs which light these spacious corridors slight framings, filled in with canvas, have been hung in the French and foreign sections. These, by a very simple arrangement, can be hoisted up or lowered down in a minute, and the light thus increased or lessened according to the day, or even, if such should happen, according to the hourly changes from sunlight to gloom. In the English portion this very good arrangement has been vetoed also, and permanent awnings, tinted of a faint light blue, have been fixed. The result is that now in these gloomy days—for the weather here is both wintry and gloomy—there is very little light in the English gallery at all; and it is the opinion of all artists who have seen it that even in summer there will not be enough. Fortunately, the canvas can be easily removed; but, unfortunately, it cannot be so easily replaced when wanted again. The French plan of having the power to modulate the light is far preferable, and all foreign collections except our own have adopted it. The English show of paintings will be very large, and of course unusually rich in water colours. For these a special screen is to be erected, passing down the centre of the gallery. Only two noblemen are among the contributors to this portion of our display—the great collections having, as a rule, been closed against the applications of the English Commissioners. In their researches after some well-known works painted within the last ten years, some curious facts were brought to light as to the rapidity with which pictures change hands. They seem to pass from dealer to purchaser, and from purchaser to dealer, with as much rapidity as bank-notes. In one case, that of a "Landseer," much coveted for this display, it was found that it had passed through the hands of no less than five different owners in the course of last year alone, and the ultimate proprietor has declined to lend it. The great mass of the collection comes, therefore, from the manufacturing districts, from the ironmasters of Birmingham and Staffordshire, and the cotton-dealers of Liverpool and Manchester, who, if not the most discriminating, are certainly just now the most liberal patrons of the Fine Arts. The loan-collection, illustrating the rise and progress of industrial art, is gathered from all parts of the United Kingdom. It will consist principally of works in metal, which, as one of the chief managers in the building told me, will bear, if necessary, 'a good scorching.' I do not think, with the extra precautions now being taken, there is much danger from fire; but the remark may be quoted as an apt illustration of what the result would be if such an accident should most unfortunately arise. A fire insurance company for all things in the Exhibition has been established; but all the fire insurances in Europe could never pay for the damage which fire here might cause.

"The arrangements for the admission of exhibitors have at last been agreed upon by the Imperial Commissioners. All exhibitors or those of their staffs who are to represent them must go to the Commissioners of their respective countries, where they will get a sort of passport certificate certifying that they exhibit such and such goods, in such and such classes. These 'permits' are to be taken at once, with a card of admission, to the office of the Imperial Executive, where the photograph of the bearer will be taken and affixed to the side of his ticket. This seems about the culminating stupidity of the passport system, and of much the same value in a restrictive point of view as when a Scotch gentleman with red hair, grey eyes, and over fifty years of age, could travel from one end of Europe to the other with a passport describing him as a young Italian. There are something like 5000 exhibitors and assistants expected to enter the building daily, all of whom pass in at one time, and almost all at the same door. A comparison of photographs with bearers is, of course, out of the question; and the result is sure to be that no

tickets will be asked for at all; and that, when exhibitors change their assistants—as they are pretty certain to do often—they will simply put the Imperial Commissioners to the expense of a new likeness of their deputy, if they even take the trouble to get a new card. The whole idea savours of the excessive parsimony of the Commissioners in everything they have done. Possibly they are not to be blamed; for, as far as can be yet seen, the one essential idea of this Exhibition is commercial profit to Paris and pecuniary profit to the so-called guarantors. Speaking of profits and costs, I may here refer to the charges of the English Commissioners. The estimate laid before Parliament was for £116,000. The estimate prepared by Mr. Cole—that is to say, allowing for contingencies—was £128,000. The latter item for contingencies has been disallowed; but I believe will have to be paid nevertheless, for it must always be borne in mind that the English part of this great show is very nearly as large as half the London Exhibition of 1851, and is twice as large as the space given to us in 1855. There has therefore to be formed a small English display of its own, second only to that which Paris exhibits, and the increased cost of staff management and arrangement has been in proportion to the area we occupy. Altogether no less than six acres and three quarters have been given to England, leaving about twelve acres, or rather less, to be divided among all the rest of the world, exclusive of France. The cost of the building in 1862 was at the rate of 9s. per superficial foot, and at the same rate our expenses on this occasion ought to be, at per foot, £162,000. True it is that the roof and walls were found here; but this was all, and the increased expense of management in Paris will go far to account for the difference between the cost of an exhibition in London, and one here."

ARMY ESTIMATES.—The supplementary estimate to cover the charges for granting an increase of pay to the non-commissioned officers and men of the Army and militia, and for the more efficient recruiting of the Army, is just published. The War Minister asks for an additional sum of £417,750 for the Army, which is thus distributed:—Brigadier-General, as Inspecting General of Recruiting, £750; addition of twopenny a day to the pay of all non-commissioned officers and men of the Army, including the Canadian Rifles, but exclusive of other colonial corps, £376,000; addition of one penny a day to the pay of all re-engaged men serving in the Army, including the Canadian Rifles, but exclusive of other colonial corps, £23,000; increase of "rewards to enlisters" to 20s. for each recruit enlisting for a specified regiment, and to 25s. for each recruit enlisting for general service, £7,000; additional bounty to men re-engaging on proceeding abroad, £10,000; a sum of £83,250 is also required for the militia, as follows:—Addition of 2d. a day to the pay of the non-commissioned officers of the permanent staff of the militia, £14,000; addition of 2d. a day to the pay of men called up for preliminary drill, £12,500; addition of 2d. a day to the pay of men called up for annual training, £128,000; additional charge for those volunteers in the militia who may engage to serve as an army of reserve, £50,000. The total amount thus required under the supplementary estimate is £500,000.

THE ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—The ordinary general meeting of the proprietors of the Royal Polytechnic was held, on Saturday afternoon, at the institution. The Rev. J. B. Owen, chairman of the board of directors, presided. It appeared from the report that the receipts had been greater than in the corresponding half of last year; and, although a large sum had been expended in repairs and improvements, there remained a handsome balance for dividend. The number of visitors to the institution during the half year exceeded 111,000, which was larger than in any previous half year, except during the period that the ghost exhibitions acquired so much popularity. Notwithstanding the necessarily heavy outlay, the result of the half year's revenue showed a profit of £492 5s. 8d.; and this, added to the surplus of last half year, amounting to £350 19s. 7d., gave a total balance of £843 5s. 3d., out of which the directors recommended the payment of a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent for the half year, making the dividend for the year 7 per cent. The report was adopted, and the dividend declared accordingly. A vote of thanks was passed to Professor Pepper for the attention he continued to give to the interests of the institution; and the usual vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the business.

SUNDAY TRADING.—The bill intended to amend the laws relating to Sunday trading, introduced to the House of Commons by Mr. Thomas Hughes, Lord Claude Hamilton, and Sir Brook Bridges, has just been published. The clause immediately following the preamble fixes the penalties for selling, offering, and exposing articles for sale, at any sum not exceeding 20s. and not less than 5s. for each offence. Then follows a statement of the cases in which the provisions of the bill shall not apply. The sale and delivery of articles for medicinal purposes are not to be interfered with at all. Meat, fish, poultry, game, or vegetables may be sold and delivered before nine o'clock in the morning; milk and cream before ten in the morning and after one in the afternoon. Pastry, fruit, or any beverage which may lawfully be sold without a license may be offered for sale, without public cry, before ten o'clock in the morning and after one in the afternoon. Periodical publications may be sold, without public cry, before ten o'clock in the morning. The ordinary business of cook-houses, eating-houses, or coffee-houses may be carried on before ten and after one. The bill will not interfere in any way with the business of bakers or of keepers of inns or other houses licensed for the sale of beer or other excisable liquors. It is provided that the fine for a second or other subsequent conviction shall not exceed 40s. nor less than 20s., and that a certificate containing the substance and effect only (omitting the formal part) of the record of the previous conviction, signed by the officer having charge of such record, shall be deemed sufficient proof. All prosecutions for offences punishable by this bill are to be commenced within seven days after the commission of the offence. The bill applies only to England, and will not be operative in towns which contain a population of less than 10,000.

THE METROPOLITAN POOR BILL.—On Monday a special meeting of the vestry of St. George's, Hanover-square, was held at the board-room, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square, to consider the Poor-Law Bill introduced by the President of the Poor-Law Board, and to take such steps with a view of opposing the same as may be determined upon. The Rev. W. Howorth, the Rector, presided, and among those present were Earl Powis, Lord Foley; Admiral Duncombe, M.P.; Colonel Hogg, M.P.; Dr. Brewer, Mr. Gibson Jones, and other members of the vestry. A resolution was moved by Mr. Glenton and seconded by Mr. Englefield, in the following words:—"That a deputation be appointed to wait upon Mr. Gathorne Hardy to oppose the whole of the Metropolitan Poor Bill, and that a public meeting be called of the ratepayers of the parish to express their opinions of the obnoxious bill." The movers urged that the poor had ever been well cared for in St. George's, Hanover-square, and that it would be unjust to this parish to take from it its special powers. Mr. Gibson Jones entered at considerable length into the whole question, and opposed the proposition. He maintained that the bill did not go far enough for the poor relief in London, and especially the sick poor relief was not so effectual as it should be for a great city like this. The treatment of the sick and general poor in St. George's was exceptional, he said; but then it was to be remembered that the position of the parish was exceptional too. The rateable value of property in this parish was about £1,000,000, and, if there should be a reassessment, more still could be raised. On this amount of nearly £1,000,000 St. George's, Hanover-square, paid for the poor about £24,000; while St. George's, Southwark, upon a rateable value of £139,706, paid as much for the poor within a little as this wealthy parish. He thought it most unjust that the poor people should be thrust upon the poorest parishes, and that those parishes should be compelled to maintain, out of their poverty, all the sick and poor, while rich parishes got off very lightly. He was interrupted in the course of his remarks, and he then repeated emphatically that the sick relief of the poor was generally a disgrace to the metropolis, and that the equalisation principle ought to be carried out. He described the outdoor relief as being so administered in many parishes as to be virtually refused to the deserving poor, and he said on the score of selfishness the opposition to the bill was unmistakable; but he maintained that its passing would save parishes like St. George's, Hanover-square, from a further extension of the equalisation principle, and would be an act of justice to the poor. He moved, as an amendment, that a deputation should be appointed to wait upon Mr. Gathorne Hardy to request certain alterations in the clauses of the bill, and to express the concurrence of the vestry in the principle of the measure. The amendment was not seconded. Colonel Hogg, M.P., pointed out to the vestry that it would be of no use now to oppose the principle of the bill, as it had passed the second reading (A statement which drew from a vestryman the remark, "More shame for the House of Commons!"). He thought the only opposition St. George's could offer would be to ask Mr. Hardy to except this parish from the operations of the measure on account of the excellent manner in which the poor law had here been carried out. He expressed himself as utterly opposed to the equalisation principle, as one confiscating West-End property to East-End property. Mr. Walton supported the motion. He said he had always supported the Conservatives, expecting to have good measures, and this was a specimen of the measures; saying which, he picked up a copy of the bill, and dashed it on the table amid great laughter. He pronounced himself a certain animal for believing the party. After remarks by Dr. Hamilton and Mr. Walker, Dr. Brewer spoke at some length, and held that it was a dangerous principle of this bill that it proposed to give relief without any test as to the necessities of the applicants. The resolution was then carried after a few words had been altered, and the word "obnoxious" removed. A deputation from the unions of the east of London waited upon the President of the Poor-Law Board on Saturday last to make suggestions as to the Government Poor-Law Bill. On the whole the deputation spoke with the highest approval of the measure, and Mr. Gathorne Hardy gave some satisfactory explanations.

A NEW FENIAN OUTBREAK.

It is with feelings of regret, but hardly of surprise, that the public will hear of the Fenian outbreak in Ireland. The conspirators have hitherto inflicted the greatest amount of trouble on the Government and of disquietude on all loyal people with the least possible exertion and exposure on their own part. By meetings, drillings, importations of arms, threats, boasts, and, finally, by the petty rising in Kerry, they have contrived to keep in activity the considerable force at present stationed in Ireland, and to fill with alarm the isolated households of the gentry. These rebels have shown themselves excellent at everything except actual rebellion. Still, menaces and feints could not last for ever. If false alarms were too often given, they would in time be disregarded, and then the chief power of the Fenian leaders would be gone. Those who paid their money in America have been anxious for action, and have not failed to denounce the supposed irresolution and cowardice of their leaders. We may well suppose that the Fenian following in Ireland, which could not understand the delays of Stephens and his accomplices, have urged that something must be done. For some time past it has been evident that mischief was at hand. The mysterious visit to Chester, which no one can now doubt was connected with the Fenian conspiracy, the premature outbreak at Cahirciveen; and, more than all, the plottings of the last fortnight, which have been duly disclosed to the authorities, have been sufficient to keep the military force on the alert. Lord Strathnairn returned to Ireland as soon as the first news of the Kerry affair arrived, and has been ever since fully prepared for action. His force is sufficient, and disposed in such a manner as to be capable of being moved promptly and effectively at the shortest notice. It has for so many years been necessary to study the prospect of insurrection in Ireland that there need be no doubt of the ability of the Commander-in-Chief to take military possession of the country, and to deal successfully with rebellion wherever it shows itself.

While, however, there is no ground for alarm, so far as the vindication of the Queen's authority is concerned, it would be wrong to disregard the sinister features of the present outbreak. It has evidently been concerted. It broke out at the same time at many distant points. The despatch read by Lord Naas in the House of Commons states that the rising around Dublin was general, and that at Drogheda the police barracks was attacked, though without success. We have since learnt that at two other stations the police were overpowered and made prisoners; at Dermore the police barracks was burnt, and a coastguard station near Kilmash was plundered of arms. At Kilmallock, however, a small body of police sustained for three hours the attack of a very superior force of Fenians, whom they defeated with the loss of three killed and fourteen prisoners; and at Drogheda, also, the police defeated a body of Fenians, estimated at 1000, who had taken possession of the market-house, made forty prisoners, and captured a large quantity of ammunition. "The military," by which we understand the force under Lord Strathnairn, had brought into Dublin 208 prisoners, and large quantities of arms and ammunition had been seized. Of what materials the Fenian force is composed some idea may be formed from the significant fact that 105 young men are said to be missing from the Dublin drapery establishments. In and near Dublin, however, there is not likely to be even a temporary success of the insurgents. The city is well supplied with troops, and these are disposed so as to act promptly wherever riot may appear.

In the south-west the movement appears to be more dangerous. The telegraph-wires have been everywhere cut; the railway has been blocked and some of the rails torn up in the neighbourhood of Thurles. It must be borne in mind, too, that Munster is, and always has been, the most disaffected part of Ireland, that there the Fenian conspiracy was hatched and has grown up, and that, both in Ireland and in America, the rebels have put their chief trust in the men of Cork, Tipperary, Limerick, and the neighbouring counties. The "Generals" and leaders from America have also been especially busy in the south-west. We are not surprised, therefore, to hear that in several parts of the south-west there have been isolated, but evidently concerted, outrages, in pursuance of the plans of the disaffected. As in other parts of the island, however, the military power is quite able to deal with any disturbers of the public peace. A large force is stationed in the south of Ireland, and can be moved to the unsettled districts at once. Hitherto it would seem that the police alone had in most cases been able to resist and disperse the rebels.

It appears, the Government received information a few days ago of an intention on the part of the Fenians to take possession of the Limerick junction, which commands the railway communication with Limerick, Cahir, Clonmel, Waterford, Buttevant, Fermoy, and Cork—all military stations. Bodies of troops were consequently concentrated there from Fermoy, Mallow, and Templemore. Bodies of constabulary were also draughted in there, and Inspector-General Brownrigg was sent down specially to take the command of any movement that might be deemed necessary. The precautions of the authorities would seem well founded from the fact of their succeeding in arresting an individual for whom they had been on the alert, and who is regarded as the leading military commander among the Fenian conspirators in Ireland. He was arrested on the arrival of the night mail from Cork on Tuesday morning, while standing in the refreshment-saloon of the Limerick junction, and, having been placed under a strong escort, he was at once conveyed to Dublin, and lodged in Chancery-lane police station. His name, it appears, is Godfrey Massey. He is a native of the county of Tipperary, whence he emigrated to America, where he obtained employment in a business capacity, but subsequently entered the Federal army during the progress of the late war. He rose to the rank of "General," and, having attached himself to the Fenian brotherhood, he speedily attained distinction, and was ultimately appointed "commander-in-chief of the army of the Irish republic." He is stated to be the most trusted member of the confederacy, and is certainly looked upon as a "leader" by the people of the south of Ireland. Supposing the action of the police to be in the true direction, there is no doubt that a most important capture has been made. Having been detained in Chancery-lane some hours, he was thence removed to Mountjoy Prison.—Times.

A despatch from Limerick junction on Thursday says that on the previous night a large number of Fenians were seen at Killeale, in the county of Limerick, supposed to be on their way to attack Banahy, in the county of Tipperary. They met the military and fired at them. The soldiers returned the fire, killing one and wounding several. Thirty-one prisoners were taken. Fifty-one prisoners are now in gaol in Tipperary. Several gentlemen's houses have been attacked.

MR. MILL UPON WOMAN SUFFRAGE.—Earl Russell and Mr. Mill, M.P., have forwarded to Mr. H. J. Rowntree, the chairman of the late Reform meeting at York, letters of thanks for the resolutions passed on that occasion in acknowledgment of their exertions in the cause of Reform. The letter of Mr. Mill is dated the 27th ult., and is as follows:—"Dear Sir,—I am greatly honoured by the resolution passed at the Reform meeting held at York on the 21st, which you have communicated to me, and I beg you to express my thanks to the York branch of the Reform League. I hope you will permit me to observe that the principle that it is unjust that the great bulk of the nation should be held amenable to laws in the making of which they have had no voice cannot stop at 'residential manhood suffrage,' but requires that the suffrage be extended to women also. I earnestly hope that the working men of England will show the sincerity of their principles by being willing to carry them out in favour of others besides themselves."

GOING TO JOIN THE FENIANS.—During the excitement which the announcement of a Fenian rising in Kerry created among the Irish residents of Liverpool, two little boys, of whom the elder was not more than nine years of age, were one evening missing from the town. They had been sent in the morning to the lower school of Liverpool College, with the quarter's fees, so that in all they would have between 60s. and 70s. in their possession. Anxious inquiries were made about them from day to day, but no clue was obtained as to their whereabouts until a letter was received from one of the runaways, bearing the Dublin post-mark, and requesting that they might be fetched back, as they were without the means for securing a return passage across the Channel. The father of one of them proceeded to Dublin by the next packet, and found the young scoundrels at the place indicated by the letter. In answer to interrogatories, the elder of the two said "they went to join the Fenians;" but they had been unable to find them.—Liverpool Advertiser.

PAINFUL CATASTROPHE AT ACCRINGTON.

A serious fire, attended by very melancholy circumstances—nine little children having been burnt to death—took place, on Friday week, at Accrington. Persons who have passed through that town, over the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, will have observed a somewhat lengthy viaduct, which consists of several lofty arches and spans a deep valley, extending from Blackburn-road to Whalley-road. Beneath one of these arches, about the centre of the viaduct, and lying at the bottom of King-street and in the depth of the valley, a small brick building was erected about twelve months ago. It consisted of but a ground floor and one upper story, each consisting of one room about 10 yards long by 5 yards wide. The room on the ground floor has been used as works for head knitting and varnishing, while the upper floor has been occupied by an infant school, established by a benevolent Roman Catholic lady and conducted by Miss Burscough. It was in this head knitting and varnishing works that the disastrous fire broke out, and in the room above that the nine children lost their lives. There was one common entrance to the works and the school-room, by a door opening into a small pale inclosure, and a wooden staircase led from one to the other. In the immediate vicinity of this staircase, if not directly under it, a stove was fixed for the purpose of drying the heads after varnishing, and, soon after eleven o'clock in the forenoon, something—some pitch, it is conjectured—became ignited by the heat of the stove, and the flames immediately took possession of the wooden staircase, which was the only means of communication between the school room and the street. The staircase does not seem at any time to have been one of the most substantial; and the stove, so close to it and constantly in use, had dried the wood, so that it began to burn like tinder when once it became ignited. At this time there were between seventy and ninety children in the school-room. An alarm was immediately given, and as it spread through the adjoining streets anxious crowds, desirous of giving assistance, began to gather outside the building. The fire brigade was sent for, hose speedily arrived, and there was a good supply of water; but, owing to the inflammable nature of the material, the building was entirely gutted before the fire was extinguished, nothing being left but some iron machinery in the headworks and a portion of charred floor belonging to the school-room. In the mean time the flames were gathering strength and the school room was rapidly filling with dense smoke, and the poor children, terrified and helpless, were shrieking for assistance. Miss Burscough, the schoolmistress, seems to have acted with great courage and resolution. It is said that, after saving some of the children by rushing down the burning staircase with them, she returned again once, if not twice, and so saved others. At any rate, she was indefatigable in assisting the children down the staircase to people who stood at the foot ready to receive them; and it was only when her own life was seriously threatened that she could be herself got out of the school-room. Notwithstanding the difficulties and the danger to all concerned, many of the children were saved by the staircase. In addition to the efforts thus directed, several ladders were obtained and placed against the upper windows: between twenty and thirty were rescued in this way. Police-constable Burton seems to have been the only one who ventured up the staircase from the street. Rushing into the school room, he kicked three of the windows out; and, though the room was so full of smoke that he could not see any of the children, he succeeded in seizing five of them and dropping them out of the windows to the excited people, who caught them from below. He was then obliged to leap from one of the windows for his own safety. A ladder was taken to one of the front windows, and five or six children were got out by means of it; but when this had been done too many people got upon the ladder at one time, and it broke, falling through one of the lower windows, and thereby increasing the draught and encouraging the flames. Had it not been for this accident, it is thought that more, if not all, of the children, might have been rescued. The persons engaged on the other ladders—amongst whom Messrs. Thomas and Robert Wilson, Arthur Appleby, and James Crossley distinguished themselves by saving many lives—concur in stating that all the children might have been easily got out alive if they could only have rushed to the windows. As it was, the poor creatures, stupefied by fear and blinded and stunned by the suffocating effects of smoke, were soon rendered powerless to help themselves in any way; and when the flames had abated and the smoke had somewhat cleared away, nine charred and terribly-disfigured little bodies were found huddled together in the middle of the school room floor. It is a somewhat singular fact that, while nine of the children were thus cruelly burnt to death, none of those who escaped received any serious injury.

THE HEALTH OF THE CONVICT WILLIAM ROUPELL has completely broken down, and he is now in the hospital at Portland.

NEWSPAPERS FOR RUSSIA.—As many newspapers addressed to Russian Poland and other parts of Russia continue to be stopped and returned to this country, attention is again called to the conditions under which alone newspapers can be forwarded by the post to Russia. These conditions are:—1. Political newspapers, in covers open at the ends or sides, cannot be received unless addressed either to members of the Imperial family, to the Imperial Ministers, or to members of the Diplomatic Corps. 2. Non-political newspapers may be sent, in addition to the personages mentioned above, only to the higher schools, to the Imperial Public Library, the Academy of Sciences, and to established booksellers.

A TURKISH ENCAMPMENT IN CRETE.

THE attention of all Europe is still directed to the insurrection in Candia, where the patriots continue, it is said, to repulse their invaders now that the disaffected portion of the insurgents, including those who from their previous bad character brought the national cause into disgrace, have left the island. We recently gave some particulars of the departure of these malcontents and the unexpected opposition which awaited their arrival at Athens. The cause of freedom has seemed to be more, rather than less, successful since this defection, and Garibaldi, whose son is already in Crete, taking part in the struggle for independence, has declared his willingness to join the insurgents if circumstances should make his co-operation desirable. Our engraving represents the spot where a Turkish encampment has been pitched, in one of the most beautiful portions of the island. The north coast of Crete is full of indentations, and forms the Capes of Buso Spada, Melela, Retimo, Sasso, St. John, Sidero, and the Bays or Gulfs of Kismas, Canea, Sada, Amyro, Retimo, and Mirabel. It is at a spot near the Bay of Suda that the Turkish camp is situated; and this bay will one day be the greatest, as it is already the best, harbour of Crete, when the canal across the Isthmus of Suez is completed. Except in the immediate neighbourhood of the three cities Candia, Retimo, and Canea, the roads are in the most wretched condition. In many places only mules and asses can venture with safety. When they descend the hills the peasants almost invariably alight; and most of the bridges are broken down, so that the torrents formed by the winter rains prevent the passage of streams which in the summer are little more than rivulets.

MR. JOHN PHILLIP, R.A.

THE mortal remains of Mr. John Phillip, R.A., whose death we announced in our last week's Number, were interred, at noon on Monday, in Kensal-green Cemetery. The bitter east wind no doubt deterred many from attending the ceremony, but there was a large gathering of brother artists and friends of the deceased. Among the members of the Royal Academy present were Messrs. Creswick, Frith, Elmore, O'Neill, Ansdell, Fied, Millais, Calderon, Leighton, Yeames, Wells, and Armitage. Messrs. Topham, H. W. Phillips, T. Brooks, O. T. Barlow, George Chester, Rudolph Lehmann, Val Prinsep, A. J. Lewis, Agnew, W. Wynfield, George Leslie, James Christie, Shirley Brooks, and Edmund Yates, were also present. The only son of the deceased, Master Colin Phillip, was chief mourner.

Few men could have been worse spared by the Royal Academy

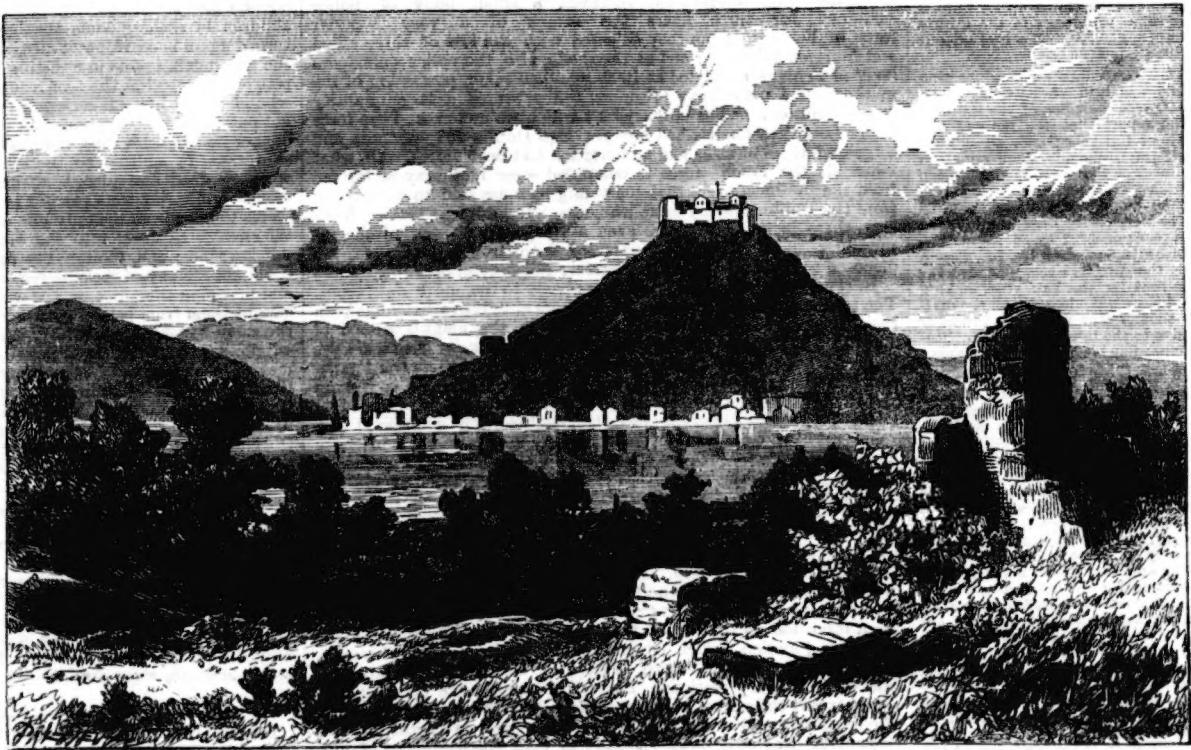
than John Phillip—"Phillip of Spain," as he was called, not irreverently, but in recognition of his royalty in art. His great powers had barely attained their full maturity, and, at the moment when we began to look hopefully for works which would bring honour to the British school of painters, the great artist is snatched from us. We regret to hear, too, that Mr. Elmore has been very far from well for some time, and it is doubtful whether he will be able to complete his picture for the Academy. Of Phillip's uncompleted pictures we hear much sorrowing praise. Amongst other subjects, he had selected one which in his hands could not have failed to be admirable—a group of Spanish street-urchins playing at a bull-fight.

THE ECLIPSE OF THE SUN.

ON Wednesday morning, at eight o'clock, shortly before the eclipse began, drifting clouds chased one another across the face of the sun, permitting only occasional glimpses of sunshine, just enough to tantalise expectant observers. Instead of clearing off, the clouds thickened, so that little or nothing was witnessed of the eclipse in London, except a few fleeting glimpses, about the time of the first contact, and after ten o'clock, as the moon was withdrawing from the sun's disk. At this time many of the clouds were of about sufficient density to permit the partial obscuration of the sun to be seen without the aid of coloured glasses. Towards the middle of the eclipse, although the sun could not be observed in London, the interposition of the moon caused a perceptible and decided decrease in the light of the morning. The temperature fell slightly during the eclipse, but so little as not to be perceptible without the aid of good instruments. A few flakes of snow were also seen falling in the neighbourhood of Greenwich, Regent's Park, and other parts of London; but this was simply due to the extreme coldness of the morning, and was not in any way connected with the astronomical phenomenon. Later in the day—in fact, at two o'clock—a slight fall of snow took place all over London.



MUSSULMANS AND RAYAHS OF TURKEY IN EUROPE.—SEE PAGE 155.



ZABLIAK: CASTLE OF IVAN CERNOIEVITCH, FIRST PRINCE OF MONTENEGRO.—SEE PAGE 155.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, Professor G. B. Airey, F.R.S., the Astronomer Royal, had planned out a careful series of micrometrical observations, to be continued during the whole of the eclipse, by which more accurate data respecting the motion and dimensions of the sun and moon would have been obtained. The place of the sun in the heavens is far more accurately known than that of the moon; and an eclipse of the sun offers special facilities for observation, because the moon can then be seen in a part of its orbit where it is never visible at any other time. The moon cannot be distinguished when it is near the sun, unless it goes so far as to obscure a portion of the face of that luminary, as it did on Wednesday. The sky, however, was so cloudy that only a small part of the proposed observations near the beginning of the eclipse could be made, and these, for want of the others with which they might be compared, are nearly useless.

Two instruments are used at Greenwich Observatory to watch the phenomena of eclipses and to take the necessary measurements. The first of these is the great equatorial telescope, with an object-glass 12½ in. in diameter, ground by a German named Merz. This is the finest glass in England, but the Americans have a larger one at Boston, 15 in. in diameter; and the object-glass of the Dorpat telescope at Pulkova is 15 in. across also. When an eclipse is viewed through the great equatorial telescope, the instrument, with the action of most accurate clockwork moved by a small turbine, is kept continuously pointing at the sun. When the motion of any orb has to be followed for a considerable length of time, the whole of the roof of the building can be moved round by an assistant with the aid of machinery, so as to keep the orifice through which the telescope looks in front of the object-glass. In the great eclipse of 1860, and when comets are about, this instrument has done good service, but it is seldom used. The great transit circle is the instrument in constant work at the Royal Observatory; but it can only swing heavily over from north to south between two pillars



TURKISH CAMP ON THE BAY OF SUDA, CRETE.

of solid masonry; its use being to note when a fixed star crosses the meridian of Greenwich.

The other telescope employed in the observation of eclipses is the altazimuth instrument, erected in 1847 especially for lunar purposes. It is small in size, and, like all the other telescopes at Greenwich, has a very firm foundation, consisting of a substantial pier of brickwork, built up from a great depth in the solid ground; for in all such instruments the greatest care must be taken to prevent vibration.

When a fixed star crosses the meridian of Greenwich, or when the time of the first and last contacts of the sun and moon in an eclipse have to be taken down to the fraction of a second, the difficult task of accurately registering such moments instantaneously is very cleverly overcome. In a room set apart for the purpose, a drum, covered with parallel lines drawn upon paper, revolves with great accuracy by means of clockwork. Over this drum are two "prickers," with their points side by side, worked by electro-magnets. One of these prickers strikes the paper every second, and pricks small spots upon the line then passing beneath its point. The other pricker is motionless, till the observer looking through the telescope wishes to register the time, when he simply taps a button which is already beneath his finger; this instantly brings down the second pricker, by force of an electrical current sent to it in the act. Every second being registered by the first pricker, the distance of the dint made by its companion from the last complete second may be measured to the fraction of a second. "Greenwich time" is marked by the aid of this instrument, and sent daily by one wire to the central offices of the Electric and International Telegraph Company at Lothbury; whence, by means of the "chronopher," a clever piece of apparatus invented by Mr. C. F. Varley, M.R.I., it is sent on automatically to all the chief towns in Great Britain and Ireland, and moreover, by means of Abel's fuses, fires time-guns at Newcastle and North Shields.

However, from want of fine weather on Wednesday, all this elaborate apparatus and all the mathematical preparations of the Astronomer Royal were unable to determine any facts of value respecting the eclipse. The preparations of Mr. Balfour Stewart, F.R.S., the superintendent of the Observatory of the British Association at Kew, to photograph the phases by the aid of the photoheliograph, were equally fruitless.

Mr. John Browning, F.R.A.S., who witnessed the eclipse from Mr. Barnes's observatory at Upper Holloway, has published the following record of his observations:—"I observed the eclipse at Mr. Barnes's observatory at Upper Holloway, through an equatorial reflecting telescope of 8½ in. diameter. The upper end of this instrument was armed with a plate of glass having perfectly plane and parallel surfaces. On the outer surface of this glass, or that turned towards the sun, a film of pure silver had been deposited by Liebig's process, not exceeding 1-3,000,000th of an inch in thickness. This delicate metallic film, having a highly-polished surface, reflected nearly the whole of the heat of the sun's rays, while its transparency permitted a sufficient amount of light to pass through it into the telescope to enable even the smallest markings on the solar disc to be easily seen. This contrivance was made for the purpose of observing the eclipse, and had not previously been introduced. It is pretty generally known that, without such an arrangement as that above described, or one of a similar kind, the

heat of the sun's rays collected by a telescope of large aperture will break or melt the glasses of the eyepiece, thus endangering the observer's sight.

"The body of the sun seen through the silver film appears of a very cool neutral tint, a colour admirably adapted for showing the configuration of any markings on the surface.

"The first contact of the moon with the sun's limb, on the west side, which occurred at 8.17 a.m., could not be seen clearly for clouds, but at 8.20 the profile of the moon was plainly seen on the sun, upon which its continuous encroachment until 8.55 was perceptible.

indeed, so little fell that the thermometer, which was exposed, continued to rise.

"The barometer, which stood at 29.695 in., not reduced, fell to 29.689 in. about half an hour before this storm of snow was observed. The dense masses of driving snow passing before the luminous disc of the sun seen in the large aperture of the telescope presented a most extraordinary spectacle. The snow, to unaided vision, appeared only as clouds.

"It may be fairly conjectured that the interception of the sun's rays contributed greatly to the production of this very strange phenomenon."



THE LATE JOHN PHILLIP, ESQ., R.A.

"The mountains on the dark margin of the moon were beautifully projected upon the luminous disc behind, the protuberances on the S.E. side of the moon being the most prominent, the Liebnitz mountains standing out in bold relief.

"And now, just as the period of the maximum of the eclipse was approaching, just as the most interesting part of this most singular and always interesting phenomenon was most anxiously anticipated, the image of the sun, which had been from time to time half veiled by fleecy driving clouds, became totally obscured, and the period of greatest obscuration, which occurred at 9.32, passed unobserved.

"From 8.55 to 10.11 the sun was totally hidden by dark masses of cloud. Meanwhile, the readings of the thermometer—a most sensitive instrument, with a spiral bulb, which has been verified by Mr. Glaisher, and used by that gentleman in some of his night balloon-ascent—now received undivided attention.

"I subjoin the readings, and beg to point out that the maximum temperature did not occur until nearly thirty minutes after the maximum of the eclipse:—

Time.	Thermometer.	Time.	Thermometer.
h. m.	Deg.	h. m.	Deg.
8 20 ..	39.1	10 12 ..	39.1
8 45 ..	39.4	10 38 ..	39.3
9 25 ..	38.8	10 55 ..	41.0
10 0 ..	38.7		

"The result above alluded to was noted in the observations which you did me the honour to print when I observed the last eclipse at Bletchley.

"After the period of the maximum of the eclipse had long passed, when the hope of witnessing any more of the spectacle had nearly departed, at 10h. 40 min., only eleven minutes previous to the termination of the eclipse, the sun's image once more became visible through the rifts which occasionally occurred in the clouds, by which he had so long been obscured.

"The profile of the moon was now seen with a comparatively smooth outline, passing off from the sun's disc.

"It is known to practical observers that when viewing the heavenly bodies the focus of a telescope is liable to alteration from the passage of any great amount of mist or vapour between the object and the observer. While altering the focus of the eyepiece to suit the rapidly changing condition under which I was observing, I noticed that the flying clouds appeared to have a somewhat granular texture. Throwing the telescope far more out of focus—that is to say, arranging it so that the instrument would be in focus upon the clouds—I at once found that a tremendous snowstorm was taking place in mid-air.

"The temperature of the air, as indicated by the thermometer, being at this time nearly 40 deg. Fahr., as shown by the readings given above, only an occasional flake of snow reached the ground: indeed, so little fell that the thermometer, which was exposed, continued to rise.

"The barometer, which stood at 29.695 in., not reduced, fell to 29.689 in. about half an hour before this storm of snow was observed. The dense masses of driving snow passing before the luminous disc of the sun seen in the large aperture of the telescope presented a most extraordinary spectacle. The snow, to unaided vision, appeared only as clouds.

"It may be fairly conjectured that the interception of the sun's rays contributed greatly to the production of this very strange phenomenon."



LOOKING OUT FOR THE ANNULAR ECLIPSE OF THE SUN, ON WEDNESDAY LAST, AT GREENWICH.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 295.

A SOVEREIGN REMEDY FOR FENIANISM.

FRIDAY night, last week, was a busy night, and, though the talk was disproportionate to the work, as it so often is, there was a reasonably good stroke of business done at last. But the night was chiefly remarkable for a strange speech blurted out by Mr. David Stewart Ker, the member for Downpatrick. Mr. Ker is one of our silent members. We cannot say that we never saw him upon his legs before, but he very rarely speaks—perhaps on the average not more than once in two years; and his speeches, when he is inspired to unclothe his lips, are never more than one or two sentences long. On the night mentioned, however, he rose and jerked out one of his sententious speeches; and, if it was not remarkable for its length, this speech must certainly be deemed noteworthy for its strength. It was not long, but, assuredly, was uncommonly strong. Witness the latter part of this speech, which is worth quoting:—"I regret," said Mr. Ker, "that the Government allowed so many of the Fenians to get away, and that they did not, when they got them, kill them." Well, readers, were we wrong when we said that the speech, though not long, was strong? A more forcible, pithy speech we never heard. Everybody thought that the hon. gentleman was going to say "that he regretted that when the Government got the Fenians they did not keep them;" and not a few of the Conservative gentlemen would have cheered such advice. But "kill them!" Come, that is too bad! You must be joking. At all events, the House took it as a joke, and, instead of groaning disapprovingly, laughed ostentatiously. And yet, readers, less than a hundred years ago this policy of Mr. Ker, now so strange to English ears—this advice, now so extravagant that it moved us to laughter, was the policy which governed Ireland and had governed it for long centuries before. When rebels were taken they were killed. Let us say a word or two about the eccentric gentleman who had the hardihood to recommend that the old savage policy which governed Ireland in the dark days of the past should be revived. The strange, eccentric man! One would think that, like Rip Van Winkle, he must have slept for a century, and suddenly woke up unconscious that the world has changed since he fell asleep.

MR. DAVID STEWART KER.

Mr. David Stewart Ker is, as we have said, a very eccentric man. To begin with his outward appearance. His dress is very odd for a gentleman, for Mr. Ker is a gentleman by birth. He is the grandson, through his mother, of the Marquis of Londonderry, and he married a daughter of Lord Dufferin; but, though he is thus highly connected, he dresses in such a loose, slovenly fashion that when he saunters out of the House strangers in the lobby ask "Who is that oddly dressed man; surely he cannot be a member?" His dress is not of an eccentric cut. He does not persist in wearing in the reign of Victoria the fashions of the time of George IV., as some few of our members do. Nor is there much fault in the colours of his garments, though they are often an incongruous mixture; but, as we have said, his apparel is loose, mis-shapen, and, in short, slovenly; and his manners are very odd. We have said that, on the whole, he must be termed a silent member; and we have been told that he is as silent out of the House as he is in it. A little anecdote will confirm that information. We were once in a tobacconist's shop when Mr. Ker entered. He sauntered in just as he saunters into the House. He stood for some time, seemingly looking about him, but evidently at nothing particular. He took up a bundle of cigars, handled it for some time without examining it, went to the door, then returned, and at length, having stood aimlessly gazing at nothing for some minutes longer, he laid down the cigars and, without saying a word, sauntered out of the shop. "Who is that gentleman?" said we to the shopwoman. "I don't know, Sir," was the reply; "but he often comes here." "But," said we, "does he never buy anything?" "Sometimes; but when he does he seldom says more than 'How much?'" This, then—not to waste more time and space about him—is Mr. David Stewart Ker, who blurted out the strange advice—"When you catch the Fenians, kill them!" By-the-way, he was going to say something about rats, likening the Fenians to those troublesome animals. "If I were to catch a number of rats," he said—but here he was met by such an uproarious burst of laughter that he was cowed, and dropped into his seat.

THE ORACLE SPEAKS, AND SAYS NOTHING.

This was the only incident worthy of notice that occurred till Monday night, and then we had a scene the like of which has rarely, if ever, occurred in the House of Commons. It had become generally known that three members of the Cabinet had resigned—to wit, General Peel, Lord Cranbourne, and the Earl of Carnarvon—and of course it was expected that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, according to immemorial custom, would tell the House and the world the reason why; and of course the House was crowded in every part, and everybody was on tiptoe, as the phrase is, to hear the Chancellor of the Exchequer's explanation. There was, though, first, a new member to be sworn—Mr. Smith Barry, of Cork—whom our old voluble friend, Vincent Scully, tried to defeat; but, finding that he had no chance, refused to fight—happily; for, though Scully is a Liberal and Barry a Conservative, or a Conservative of the Irish sort, which often means everything by turns and nothing long, Mr. Vincent Scully's Liberalism is too costly to be acceptable here. Its cost is hours of insane gabble after midnight, when everybody wants to be in bed, and generally an extravagant waste of time. Then there came private business, presentation of petitions, questions, &c.; and all this time the House was fretting and fuming to hear the anxiously-wished-for explanation. At last all this dry, formal work was over. The clerk read the first order, "Supply;" and motion having been made that Mr. Speaker do leave the chair, Disraeli rose, and all eyes were at once fixed upon him, and all ears open to catch every word that he was about to say. But what is the matter with the right honourable gentleman? "How slow he is—how hesitating!" and he is revealing nothing." This was the thought of nine out of every ten members in the House, Conservatives and Liberals, before the Chancellor had been speaking five minutes. He told us that three of his colleagues had resigned. Well, we knew that before. He further said that he should in due time introduce a Reform Bill, which also was nothing new. All that was new was the announcement that he would produce this bill on the 18th, and that was but little. Why did these colleagues resign? Who are to be their successors? and what is to be the nature of the bill? Tell us, right hon. Sir; tell us, we are all bursting to know. But on all this the Chancellor of the Exchequer was silent as the tomb. When the Chancellor of the Exchequer sat down, the House was dismayed; and in the midst of its dismay the order for Supply was withdrawn; the clerk read out the next order, "Committee on British North America Bill," and motion was made "that the Speaker do leave the chair;" that the House might go into Committee on this bill.

BERNAL OSBORNE.

What then? Shall the Chancellor of the Exchequer evade all questioning in this way? Not if Mr. Bernal Osborne can prevent his escape. Mr. Bernal Osborne is just the man for such a crisis as this. At dry, hard work, requiring close attention, and knowledge only to be obtained by severe study, he is not much of a hand. Now and then, when the House is in Committee of Supply, he will, late in the evening, dash into a discussion on Navy or Army Estimates, or Fortifications, and other like matters, and hit right and left in a very amusing if not instructive style, showing great promptness at reply, ready wit, and caustic railery, if he does not throw much light on the subject in hand. But it is in these accidental political frays that he is most at home, and specially is he useful when something is required to be done which few like to do, perhaps because they are timid, or because they are not sufficiently acquainted with the forms of the House to venture on unusual ground. As soon as the question "That you do leave the chair" was put, Mr. Bernal Osborne rose, and at once recalled the House to what had occurred; or, as we might put it, seized hold of Disraeli, who had

slunk out of the arena, and dragged him back. But he had scarcely spoken half a dozen words when there came from the Conservative benches a cry of "Order, order!" perhaps from some friend of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who wished to open a loophole through which his leader might escape. Mr. Osborne heard this cry, and, turning to Mr. Speaker, said, "I am speaking upon the motion that you do leave the chair." Whereupon Mr. Speaker rose, and gravely told Mr. Osborne that the question under discussion was the British North America Bill, intimating by this information that Mr. Osborne was out of order in discussing anything else—a fact which Mr. Osborne perfectly well knew, although he had ventured to introduce another subject. You see, reader, he was, as we say, trying it on; but he was stopped. Was he, then, to sit down and let his game escape? Not he. He is too stanch a dog for that. "Then," he replied, "I shall move the adjournment of the House;" and now he is quite in order, for at any time, whatever may be the subject under discussion, any member may move the adjournment of the House; and, having done this, he may talk about anything, introduce any subject, travel into any latitude. Moving adjournments, though, is not a step, except on special occasions, palatable to the House; and it not unfrequently happens that the House pre-emptorily puts down, *suo more*, motions for adjournment. But Mr. Osborne met with no opposition; on the contrary, the House cheered him on, and it must be allowed that the motion was, at such a time, not only in form but in spirit perfectly in order. Indeed, this was precisely one of the junctures which the liberty to move adjournments was intended to meet; and if Mr. Osborne had chosen to give a formal reason for the course he took, he would probably have put it into this form:—"Sir, there are rumours—nay, more than rumours now, for we have had an authoritative statement—that three members of the Cabinet have resigned. The leader of the House has given us no reasons why these gentlemen have resigned—no explanations whatever. Now, this is so important a matter that I must move that the House do refuse to go on with any business until explanations shall be obtained." Mr. Osborne has, then, once more got the leader of the House into the arena. But could he get anything out of the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he had him there? Not a word. Disraeli sat on the Treasury bench with his arms across his breast, and continued as mute as a fish. Mr. Osborne then implored Lord Cranbourne to open, and amidst loud cheers he promptly rose, and everybody thought that now all would come out. But, no! His lips were sealed. He would not divulge Cabinet secrets without permission of her Majesty, and that "permission he had not obtained." Here, then, was a dilemma. Had the noble Lord and his late colleague not asked her Majesty's permission? And if not, why not? when they both knew that the House would want and had a right to ask for explanations. For a time, then, Mr. Bernal Osborne was foiled. But fear not, reader, he will try again—be sure he will try again; and if it be in the power of mortal to extract this secret, he will do it.

MR. GLADSTONE PROCLAIMS HIS POLICY.

But the motion was not without its use; for when Mr. Osborne sat down Mr. Gladstone rose, as it was his duty to do, seeing that he is the leader of the Liberal party, and in a masterly and dignified manner explained "the situation" to the House. Moreover, in alluding to the forthcoming bill, and to the policy to which Disraeli said the Government is about to "recur," he struck a lofty tone of policy, which brought down enthusiastic cheers from his supporters, and must have grated harshly upon the feelings of the Conservative chief and his followers. Here are his words, which our readers, though they may have read them before, will thank us for reproducing:—

I may venture to express, however, a hope that that proposal (that is, the bill) when it appears will be of a simple, straightforward, and intelligible character. I will not ask that it shall not contain what is new. It must contain what is new. But I will express a hope that it will not contain what is new-fangled. The people of this country are eminently attached to simplicity of procedure, and I think there never was a moment when they were in a mood less favourable for dealing with plans and schemes which might seem to them to deviate from that character of simplicity. I trust, above all, that the bill of the Government may not be a measure containing two sets of provisions, one of them framed to have the semblance of giving, and the other constructed to have the reality and effect of taking away.

Hear, hear, hear! and so say all of us. No more shuffling of the cards, no thimble-rigging; no plural voting, or, as it is facetiously called, "bricks against brains;" no ratcheter's franchise, no cumulation of votes. We are getting in earnest. One wonders what the Conservative chief thought of this trumpet blast when he reflected that, though he had lightened his ship, there is still a good deal of dead weight aboard.

MR. OSBORNE AGAIN.

But, behold Bernal Osborne again upon his legs! He had been to the House of Peers, and there heard Lord Derby and Lord Carnarvon give the very explanations which Disraeli and Lord Cranbourne, pleading the Royal seal upon their lips, had refused to the Commons. "Intolerable, this! An insult to the Commons of England!" and incontinently he rushed back, determined once again to attempt to force explanations out of the Conservative leader there. When he arrived, the House was in Committee on the North America Bill, and he could do nothing. But soon the House resumed, and then up jumped Mr. Osborne, and once more moved an adjournment, that he might state to the House what he had heard in "another place," and again demand explanation. Why should the seal of secrecy be broken there and be deemed inviolable here? But it was all to no purpose. Disraeli was obdurate as ever, and Lord Cranbourne was mute. "I know nothing of what has occurred in another place," he said. What! nothing! Was there, then, no consultation, no arrangement? Was every member of the Cabinet left to go his own way, without concert? Astonishing, if true! Well might Mr. Roebuck, in his curt, snappish way, say "that this incident proved that there were more divisions in the Cabinet than we are aware of." Here the questions had to end; for what was the use of pushing inquiries when the oracle was so obstinately dumb?

LORD BROUGHAM ON THE SUFFRAGE.—The following letter has been addressed to Mr. Gladstone by Lord Brougham:—"Cannes, Feb. 27.—Dear Mr. G.—The following is my telegram to-day in answer to what I received two days ago, and I beg your attention to it. The telegram of Monday, giving the account of what passed in the House of Commons, is most unsatisfactory, especially as regards the county qualification. The true course is to give household suffrage. I proposed this at the end of 1829, just before the change of Government, and it was agreed to by the whole Liberal party present at our private meeting—Lords Grey, Lansdowne, Radnor, and John Russell among the rest. Unfortunately, it made no part in the Reform Bill, because all were more anxious to destroy nomination and rotten boroughs than anything else, and Schedule A is supposed to have carried the bill; but, though that was very important, the extension of voting to householders, and the punishment of the corrupted and the corruptors, were equally important, and were then lost sight of. I believe that if bribers as well as bribed persons were sent to the treadmill, nobody would venture to run such a risk."

MANIFESTO BY GARIBALDI.—The following manifesto has been addressed by General Garibaldi to the people of Italy in reference to the Parliamentary elections:—"To the urn, Fellow-citizens! We Italians must secure liberty, which is now in danger, threatened by priests and their supporters. Every man who would be free should put his shoulder to the wheel. In the Chamber about to be elected, neither the friends of the destruction of liberty nor the supporters of fallen Sovereigns, both of whom really make common cause with the empire and the papacy, should have a place. The general elections can either ruin or save the nation—can make your country either an area of reaction or a focus of progress. The clericals are subjects and soldiers of a sovereign power, an authority unmixt and universal, spiritual and political, which commands and does not allow itself to be questioned, which sows discord and corrupts everything. From those obnoxious enemies of our country and of civilisation we must take away the means of harming us. The patriotism of ecclesiastics ought to be consecrated to the progress, intellectual, moral, and material, of the people, and the bringing aid to the public fortune. But as our contest with the clericals at this day keeps the whole civilised world in suspense, our victory over them will be the vindication of liberty of conscience and the triumph of reason over prejudice. To the urn, then, Citizens! to the urn, every man! Your votes will tell the world of what government we are worthy, and whether we deserve to be called a great and free nation."

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MARCH 1.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Baron Colonsay, formerly the Right Hon. Duncan McNeill, and Baron Cairns, formerly Sir Hugh Cairns, took the oaths and their seats. The Earl of LONGFORD stated, in reply to Earl De Grey, that some small defects had manifested themselves in the Snider rifle during practice, but that by a change of cartridge they had disappeared. A motion by the Duke of ST. ALBANS for copies of orders and reports with respect to the employment of the military at elections led to some discussion, in the course of which Lord LONGFORD said that no special orders were issued to the troops at the recent elections in Ireland.—The Duke of CAMBRIDGE, whilst objecting to such a use of the troops, was at a loss to see how it could be prevented, so long as the civil power deemed it necessary to invoke their aid in preserving order.

In reply to Lord Vivian, Lord LONGFORD said that an order was about to be issued from the Home Office with instructions to the volunteers as to the nature of their duties.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NAVAL COURTS-MARTIAL.

Sir J. PAKINGTON stated, in reply to Mr. H. Lewis, that the very serious attention of the Admiralty had been directed to the prevailing severity of sentences pronounced by naval courts-martial, and that, early in December last, a circular was issued to naval commanders expressing the decided opinion of the Board that that severity should be relaxed.

THE REFORM SCHEME.

Sir W. S. MAXWELL asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in his proposed scheme of Parliamentary Reform, he contemplated giving any additional representatives to Scotland? The mooted of this question was the signal for one Scotch member after another rising and pressing the claims of their country to increased representation on the ground of property, wealth, and intelligence.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said that Ministers had not yet arrived at a conclusion that there was too much representative power in England, although they thought it might be more efficiently distributed. He could not admit, therefore, that in attempting to improve the representation of the people of England and Wales the Government were bound at the same time to consider the claims of any other part of the United Kingdom. Scotch members were under a great error if they supposed that Ministers were insensible to their claims or unwilling to consider them; but they could not undertake to do so on the condition that the improved representation of Scotland was to be accomplished by the sacrifice of the interests of England.

EXTENSION OF THE FACTORY ACTS.

The Trades Unions Bill having been read the third time and passed, Mr. WALPOLE moved for leave to bring in two bills for the extension of the Factory Acts, and for regulating the hours of labour for children, young persons, and women, employed in workshops.

Mr. H. BRUCE was of opinion that the bill would strike a fatal blow at some very serious evils, and that the right hon. gentleman had only to extend his legislation to the case of children employed in agriculture to complete the good work.

Mr. E. POTTER was grateful to the Home Secretary for his proposed measure.

Mr. WALPOLE admitted that the absence of any provision for compulsory education was a defect; but he was not without hopes of being able to introduce clauses for satisfactorily dealing with that difficult subject. Leave was then given to bring in the bill.

Leave was also given to Mr. Haddfield to introduce a bill for facilitating the acquisition and enjoyment of sites for buildings for religious and other purposes; and to Mr. Cave a bill amending the Act of last Session for the protection of oyster and mussel fisheries.

MONDAY, MARCH 4.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

MINISTERIAL EXPLANATIONS.

The Earl of DERBY made a statement of the position of the Ministry in connection with the retirement of three of its members. After recounting the circumstances under which he assumed office, holding himself to be unpledged as to Reform, he said that he and his colleagues had soon arrived at the conclusion that the subject was one that ought to be settled as speedily as possible. With that view they had fully considered the question; and, believing it to be impossible for any Government by its own influence to carry a satisfactory measure, they proposed to adopt the tentative process of proceeding by resolution, but that course did not meet with the approval of the House of Commons. The Government, therefore, determined to introduce a bill. One member of the Cabinet objected to the extent of the changes proposed by the majority, but consented to waive his scruples in the hope that a settlement of this long-pending question might be effected. Subsequently, however, two other members of the Cabinet, upon further consideration, had withdrawn their assent to the proposed measure, and had, together with the first dissident, tendered their resignations, which had been accepted. After expressing his regret at separating from such valued colleagues, and his sense of the responsibility pressing on the Government in connection with this subject, the Earl of Derby declared that the Government would speedily be again complete, and would endeavour, he trusted successfully, to bring to a conclusion this long-aggitated and paramount question.

Lord CARNARVON, abstaining from entering upon any lengthy explanation, stated that in separating from the Government it was not because he was indisposed to deal with the question of Reform. On the contrary, he thought it was one needing and demanding settlement. He felt, too, that the working classes had a claim to an extended share in the representation; but at the same time he desired that no measure should be adopted which would have the effect of leaving political power in the hands of two classes only—the rich and the poor—sweeping away all intervening barriers. The measure proposed to the Cabinet would have the effect of altering the character of five sixths of the boroughs—a change more extensive than he could bring himself to regard as either prudent or desirable. After stating that, so far from objecting to a lowering of the franchise, he was prepared to accept household suffrage in boroughs having a certain limit of population, and a £6 rating in smaller boroughs, Lord Carnarvon assured the House of his deep regret at separating from Lord Derby at the present moment of difficulty, but he felt that, consistently and honourably, he had no other course to pursue.

Lord GRANVILLE abstained from commenting upon the statements that had been made to the House, but complained that during the eight or nine months the present Government had held office they had not been able to decide upon any principle of dealing with the question of Reform. The present moment was exceptionally favourable for a settlement of the question, and a serious effort on the part of the Government could only fail from factions opposition, which he did not believe would be offered, or from the inadequacy of the measure proposed.

Lord GREY regarded the speech of Lord Derby as unsatisfactory because it seemed to hold out little hope that the important subject of Reform would receive this Session that ample consideration which it deserved. He also regretted that the Prime Minister should appear to approve a Government appealing to the House of Commons on such a subject without any definite opinions of their own, and professing willingness to accept any scheme which the House might favour. He thought the Government ought either to have introduced a bill at once or to have instituted inquiry by a Commission before proceeding to legislation.

Lord DERBY, in reply, reminded Lord Granville that the Government had not yet been eight months in office, and stated that a bill had been agreed upon in November, the question of the extent of reduction in the franchise, only remaining to be considered. Noticing Lord Grey's suggestion, he contested its practicability, believing that the country would not have sanctioned a course that would have been imputed solely to a desire to cause delay.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

In anticipation of some explanations as to the recent Ministerial changes, the House of Commons was crowded at an early hour by an eager and excited audience. General Peel occupied his usual place on the Treasury bench; but Lord Cranbourne took his seat on the front bench below the gangway.

On the order for going into Supply, General Peel having postponed the Army Estimates until Thursday,

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER announced that, the Cabinet having resolved to revert to their original policy in regard to the franchise, three of its members had resigned. Arrangements had been suggested for supplying their places, which it was hoped would receive her Majesty's sanction, and would enable him by Friday to state that Lord Derby's Ministry was again complete. He proposed to bring in the Reform Bill on the 18th, to move the second reading on the Monday after, and, if it went into Committee, he should ask the House to consider it in Committee *de die in diem*.

No immediate remark was made on this statement, and the House had passed to the next order of the day—the British North America Bill—when Mr. B. OSBORNE rose and moved the adjournment of the House to enable him to "demand" further explanation. In his usual caustic vein, he commented on Mr. Disraeli's expression, "reverting to our original policy;" and, protesting against being kept longer in the dark, he pressed Lord Cranbourne (General Peel's lips being sealed, as he still remained on the Treasury bench) to state what that "original policy" was, and why he had left the Government.

Lord CRANBOURNE excused himself from making the required explanation on the ground that he could not state what had occurred in Cabinet without the Queen's permission, which he had not received.

Mr. GLADSTONE also commented on the unfortunate phrase "reverting to our original policy," which he pointed out was unnecessary to Mr.

Disraeli's explanation, and which he regretted as importing additional difficulty into the situation, since it inferred that the three dissentient Ministers had at one time concurred in that policy, and threw upon them the responsibility of some change which had caused the present embarrassment. He drew a forcible picture of the alternate fitful advances and speedy retreats which had marked the course of the Government on this question since the commencement of the Session, comparing it to a Greek dance in which the performers took three steps forward and two back (only in this case the retreat was commensurate with the advance), and warned the House of the impolicy of creating in the country a want of confidence in its capacity to deal with Reform. As to the bill itself, he hoped (hinting that there were rumours to the contrary afloat) that it would be simple and straightforward; that it would avoid any new-fangled devices, which the people never were less in a mood to receive with favour than now; and that it would not consist of two sets of provisions, one bearing the semblance of giving, the other the reality of taking away. If it avoided these dangers, and contained the elements of a satisfactory settlement, he promised that the Opposition would receive it in no grudging spirit, but with a desire to bring the endeavour of the Government to a prosperous issue.

At a later period of the evening Mr. OSBORNE returned to the charge; and, adverting to the explanations given by Lord Derby and Lord Carnarvon in the House of Lords, complained with great bitterness of the want of respect with which the House of Commons was treated, in being refused information which was freely imparted to the peers; and of Mr. Disraeli's extraordinary and obstinate silence.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER replied that he was totally ignorant of what had happened in the Lords. When he had made his statement he was not empowered to go into details; and he was compelled, not only by public duty, but by a sense of private honour, to refrain from them when he knew that the mouths of others were closed. No doubt there would be an early opportunity of giving the fullest and frankest explanation.

Mr. ROEBUCK remarked that the incident showed that the divisions in the Cabinet had increased within the last hour.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

The British North America Bill passed through Committee. The Oyster and Mussel Fisheries Bill was read the second time. On the motion for going into Committee on Mr. Selwyn's bill to abolish the disability which prevents the Counsel to the Secretary for India from sitting in Parliament, Mr. Serjeant GASELEE renewed his opposition, maintaining that if it was right to remove the exclusion it should be by a general revision of the Act of Queen Anne.

The bill was supported by Mr. SELWYN, who insisted that the exclusion was an accident and an anachronism, and by Mr. ROEBUCK and Sir G. BOWYER on the ground that the present law was a restriction on the freedom of constituencies, and that the official in question ought to be in the House to inform it on subjects involving Indian law.

Sir R. PALMER and Mr. COLERIDGE opposed the bill, arguing that the change, if made, ought to be general, and pointing out the practical inconvenience of having in the House a confidential servant of a department who, as a partisan, might have to speak and vote against his principals.

Ultimately Mr. SELWYN withdrew the motion, and gave notice that he would ask the House to refer the bill to a Select Committee.

TUESDAY, MARCH 5.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House of Lords sat for a few minutes only, and the business transacted passed on public interest.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MINISTERIAL EXPLANATIONS.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in moving that the House at its rising should adjourn till next day at two o'clock, took the opportunity of explaining more fully than he was authorised to do at the previous day's sitting the circumstances which had led to the resignation of three of his colleagues in the Cabinet. Early in the autumn Lord Derby wrote to him and told him that, after great deliberation, he had arrived at the conclusion that it was absolutely necessary to deal with the question of Parliamentary Reform, and that it must be treated in no niggardly spirit. What was Lord Derby's opinion early in the autumn was his last opinion, and the one on which he was now prepared to act; and the expectation rather than the hope had been entertained that the Government would have been able to propose a measure conceived in that spirit. Unhappily and unexpectedly, however, they were disappointed. Under these circumstances Lord Derby sanctioned the measure which had been submitted to the House on Feb. 25, and there was reason to believe that it might have been accepted by Parliament. But the reception it met with at the hands of the Conservative party in the country, and by Mr. Gladstone and his Parliamentary supporters, determined Lord Derby to call his colleagues together to consider the situation, when he expressed the opinion that the course he had originally contemplated was the only one that would lead to a solution that would be satisfactory to the country and most conducive to its present and future interests. A great majority of the Cabinet agreed with Lord Derby in this policy; but he regretted to say that they had the misfortune to lose three of their colleagues. It would be the business of Ministers to introduce as soon as they possibly could a measure of Parliamentary reform; and the House need not fear that there would be any evasion, equivocation, vacillation, or hesitation in the measure. It would be brought forward as the definite opinion of the Cabinet, and by that definite opinion they would stand; and he believed that it would not only not perplex Parliament but be satisfactory and intelligible to the country.

General PEEL, who was received with loud cheers from all parts of the House, frankly admitted that he had altered the opinions he had expressed in the last Session on the question of extending the franchise, and deeply regretted some of the observations he had then made on the subject. Having thus changed his opinions, he came to the conclusion that it was desirable to settle the question of Reform as soon as possible and that this might be done by every party conceding something and adopting a compromise. It was on the fatal fifth resolution that he arrived at the conviction that in many boroughs the proposals of the Government would bring the franchise down to household suffrage. And, so thinking, he tendered his resignation. But when his colleagues assured him that the system of plurality of voting was compensatory, and that the measure was a Conservative one, he was content to sacrifice his own view to what appeared to be the unanimous opinion of his colleagues. Last Monday week, however, he learned that two of his colleagues had, without communicating with him, come to the same conclusion as he had done—that the effect of the scheme would be in some of the smaller boroughs entirely to swamp the present constituencies. When, therefore, they declined to take any share of the responsibility for bringing in the measure, the ground on which he had consented to remain in office was removed, and he felt that he could no longer avoid taking a similar step.

Lord CRANBOURNE also explained the circumstances under which he had felt himself bound to tender his resignation. They were almost identically the same as those which had influenced his late colleagues, Lord Carnarvon and General Peel.

Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Lowe, Mr. Horsman, Lord Stanley, and Mr. Bright having addressed the House, the motion for adjournment was agreed to, and the House proceeded with the other business on the paper.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE FENIAN RISING.

Mr. MONSELL having inquired whether the Government had received any information relative to a fresh outbreak of the Fenians in Ireland,

Lord NAAS replied that a telegram had reached him from the Under-Secretary, Sir Thomas Larcom, to the effect that the telegraph-wires had been cut between Dublin and Limerick and between the Dublin and Limerick junction; that the rails had been torn up south of Thurles; that all communication had been interrupted between Cork, Limerick, and Tipperary; that a general rising had taken place in the neighbourhood of Dublin, the numbers "out" being estimated at from 1000 to 4000 persons; that a police barrack at Drogheda had been attacked and the assailants driven off, some being shot and others taken prisoners; that the metropolitan police stations at Clumlin and Kilmainham had also been attacked, without success; that Dublin had been emptied of its troublesome classes; that the city was perfectly tranquil; and that a skilful disposition had been made of the troops. Another telegram was from Commander Williams, of the coastguard station at Youghal, in the county of Cork. It stated that the Fenians had attacked the police barrack at Castlemartyr, twelve miles distant; that one of the assailants, an American, had been shot and several wounded; and that the telegraph-wires had been cut between Cork and Youghal.

OXFORD TESTS BILL.

Mr. COLERIDGE moved the second reading of the Tests Abolition (Oxford) Bill. There was no discussion, and the bill was read the second time. The other business was unimportant.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE FENIANS.

In reply to Earl Granville, The Earl of DERBY said a telegram respecting the state of Ireland was received at 11.45 saying that railway communication between Cork and Dublin was resumed; several Fenians had been killed, the rest were dispersing, and the military were in pursuit. Thirteen prisoners had been taken. He (the noble Earl) had called at the Home Office as he came down to the House, and found that another telegram had been received, dated 3.45, which corroborated the former, and stated, in addition, that Dublin, Limerick, Cork, and Waterford were quiet. A number of arms were taken, and many were found on the ground. Nothing further had occurred.

TRADES UNION BILL.

The Earl of BELMORE moved the second reading of this bill, and explained

the circumstances which had suggested its introduction, referring to the outrages at Sheffield as a proof that some legislation was needed. The motion was carried.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

STATUTES OF PLANTAGENET KINGS.

Mr. O. STANLEY asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if any recent communications have taken place between the English and French Government as to the removal of the statues of the Plantagenet Kings Henry II. and Richard Cœur de Lion of England, Eleanor of Guienne, and Isabel of Angoulême from the chapel of Fontevrault, Anjou, to this country; and if the statues are properly taken care of in the chapel of Fontevrault.

Lord STANLEY said no recent communications had passed on the subject. With regard to the latter part of the question, he had no certain information.

THE RUSSIAN POLICY IN THE EAST.

Mr. LAYARD asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether certain despatches respecting the policy of Russia in the East, addressed by the Russian Government to the Russian Ambassador in London, had been communicated to her Majesty's Government; and, if so, whether he would lay them upon the table of the House, together with any correspondence which may have taken place between her Majesty's Government and that of Russia with regard to them.

Lord STANLEY said none of the despatches referred to had been communicated to him in an official manner. Two of them had been placed in his hands for a time, but the hon. member would understand that these he could not produce.

THE ARMY ESTIMATES.

General PEEL, in Committee of Supply, moved the Army Estimates. After explaining the increase in the Estimates as compared with those of last year, which, he said, arose from circumstances over which they had no control, the hon. and gallant member said the number of men proposed was 139,133, at a cost of £8,267,300, giving an average rate of £59 8s. per man. It was proposed to provide, next year, 426 rifled guns, and provision was also made for the conversion of 350,000 rifles. The gallant General entered at some length into the details of the Estimates.

A long discussion ensued, and several votes were taken.

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THE FENIAN "RISING."

So the Fenians in Ireland have made something like a systematic and general "rising" at last. At the time we write (Thursday) the information received in London is too meagre and fragmentary to furnish a clear idea of the extent of the movement or the amount of mischief done. It seems probable, however, that there has been—perhaps still is—what was meant for an organised and simultaneous rising of the disaffected throughout the island. If so, the strength of the conspiracy will be known, and, having assumed a tangible shape, it may be the more effectually crushed. That such will be the result, under any circumstances, we may fairly take for granted. It is sad to think, however, of the mischief that may be done meanwhile. Blood has been already shed, and more will probably yet flow ere the outbreak is suppressed. Then will come the trial and punishment of prisoners, some of whom must be made to suffer as a warning to others. Thus we have the elements of painful scenes and disagreeable exhibitions.

But this unhappy movement will bring about evils still more grievous, because more general and more lasting than even these. The well-being of Ireland in the future is certain to be seriously compromised by passing events. Absenteeism is one of the many evils under which that unhappy country suffers, and the deeds of the Fenians will increase absenteeism, and so aggravate her misery. The animosities of creeds and of classes are already sufficiently intense in Ireland: Fenianism will make them more intense still. Capital, and skill, and enterprise are wanted to develop the resources and promote the industry of Ireland: Fenianism will effectually frighten capital, skill, and enterprise from her shores. The insecurity of life and property, in short, is already too great there: Fenianism will infallibly make them more insecure than ever. The leaders of the wretched conspiracy, therefore, can do much mischief, but they cannot possibly do any good. Not even the maddest in their ranks can hope to succeed in the effort to sever the connection between Great Britain and Ireland; they never can establish their Irish Republic till England and Scotland become Republics too—if ever that period does arrive. Even supposing, then, that a Republican Government would be a good thing in Ireland, it is a good thing that cannot be obtained: Great Britain is too powerful and the Irish too much divided. So mischief only can result from Fenian risings. The regeneration of Ireland—in other words, the development of her physical resources, the promotion of her industry, and the healing of her social discords—will be indefinitely postponed, her friends will be cooled, her enemies will be heated, and her general welfare sacrificed. Why? All because she was misgoverned in the past; and because, in the present, some people in America have more money than brains, and some in Ireland more zeal than discretion. It is a sad spectacle, and one that we love not to contemplate.

THE METROPOLITAN POOR BILL.

Another thing not very pleasant to look upon is the opposition offered by some of the rich parishes of London to Mr. Gathorne Hardy's Metropolitan Poor Bill. This opposition, however, we expected. The bill, although only in a partial degree carrying out the principle of the equalisation of poor rates, is yet a step in that direction; and hence the selfish

cry of St. George's, Hanover-square, about the confiscation of property in West-End parishes for the benefit of East-End property. "Confiscation" is a big-sounding word, and has on many occasions done good service to the opponents of reform and improvement. We hope it will not now avail the "warm slaves" of St. George's, Hanover-square, in their efforts to shirk their duty to the rest of the metropolis. Confiscation, indeed! Why, is not all legal provision for the poor a confiscation of somebody's property for the benefit of somebody else? Do any of us take special pleasure in paying poor rates? Do we invite, do we even willingly receive, the visits of the collector? Of course not. But we know that we must spare something out of our comparative abundance for those of our brethren who have nothing. The law makes us do this as individuals; and there is no reason why wealthy parishes should not be made to aid poor parishes in the same way as rich individuals are made to aid needy individuals. The soundness of the principle is incontrovertible; and we hope its application will be carried out—the rich landlords of St. George's, Hanover-square, to the contrary notwithstanding. It is no answer to the arguments in favour of equalisation of rates to tell us that in certain aristocratic parishes the poor have been liberally dealt with. There is but little merit in that. The cost of the poor there is small, because the poor are few, and the means of the ratepayers are great. It would be inexcusable indeed did they fail in doing their duty under such circumstances.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE PRINCE OF WALES held a Levée on Monday, at Buckingham Palace, by command of her Majesty. The Levée was very numerous attended.

THE INFANT PRINCESS, daughter of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, will, we believe, be christened in the private chapel within Windsor Castle at the latter end of this month (should the health of the Princess of Wales permit), and the same state ceremony will be observed as on the occasion of the baptism of his Royal Highness Prince George, the second son of the Prince and Princess, in July, 1865.

DR. SIMON has been elected Speaker of the North German Parliament. He received 127 votes.

MR. HORSMAN has given notice of a Reform bill of his own. It will deal only with the borough franchise.

THE SKIN-DYERS of PARIS have struck work, and have thereby caused great disturbance in the glove trade.

A MAN NAMED STANYON drowned himself, a few days ago, in the Surrey Canal, because an invention by him of a new circular saw had not been taken up.

EGGS were imported into this country from abroad during the year 1866 to the enormous number of 438,878,880.

M. DE LAMARTINE is to be presented with 400,000*fr.* So says the *France*. The same paper adds that the proposal for the presentation originated with the Emperor.

MISS ETTLES, of Inverness, has given the sum of £4000 to found scholarships in the Universities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Aberdeen.

WORKMEN were candidates in several places for election to the North German Parliament, but one only was successful—namely, a turner in wood named Babel, of Leipzig, chosen on the seventeenth Saxon circumscription at Glichau-Meerane.

BONNETS made from the skin of the cobra di capello, and ladies' muffs made of vulpine-down, are among the articles sent from the Cape of Good Hope to the Paris Exhibition.

THE ORCADIAN, bound from Liverpool to Savannah, which went on shore on Inscar last week, has broken up; and the coast is strewn with cargo and wreck.

MISS ELIZABETH PHILP, one of our best song-composers nowadays, and who has more than once been favourably spoken of in these columns, has been wintering at Cologne, studying from Ferdinand Hiller and Mme. Marchesi. With her is Miss Amy Coyne, daughter of the well-known dramatist; and Herr Hiller has expressed his great admiration of the progress made by both our countrywomen.

THE SECOND ANNUAL DINNER OF THE CORDON CLUB took place on Saturday—Lord Houghton presiding. The Duke of Argyll, Professor Fawcett, and Mr. Potter were among the speakers.

THE POSTAL RATES FROM PANAMA to all parts of the United States is fixed at 5*d.*, and to Australia at 6*d.*, a single letter. The prepayment to the United States is optional and to Australia compulsory.

COTTON OPERATIVES, to the number of nearly 20,000, are out upon strike at Stockport, in consequence of the determination of the employers to reduce the wages of the workpeople. At meetings which have been held resolutions were agreed to pledging the men to resist the reduction by remaining out on strike.

THE FIRST LIEUTENANT of the Viceroy of Egypt's yacht Maahr, now at Toulon, has just died from exhaustion, in consequence of a too rigorous fast which he had imposed on himself during the Ramadan.

THE NELSON screw line-of-battle ship, 2736 tons, 500-horse power, has been masted in the ship-basin at Portsmouth, on the commencement of her outfit for proceeding to Australia as a boys' training ship at Victoria. The Nelson's outfit will cost about £42,000, and will be defrayed by the colony.

THE DISTANCE between New York and San Francisco, via the Isthmus of Panama, is now accurately ascertained to be 5258 miles—viz., 1980 miles from New York to Aspinwall, 48 miles from Aspinwall to Panama, and 3230 miles from Panama to San Francisco.

THE POLICE TRIBUNAL of ZUG, in Switzerland, has just condemned a landowner, who had been convicted of putting water in his milk, and had thus caused a loss to the purchaser, a dealer in that commodity, to eighteen months' imprisonment, the loss of civil rights, and costs.

MR. PEABODY'S FORTUNE is estimated at 30,000,000*dols.*—the richest private individual, save Baron Rothschild, within the limits of civilisation. He is perfecting his plans for the some-time-since announced gift to the poor of Boston and the colleges of his native State. His gifts already aggregate 3,000,000*dols.*

THE AUTHORITIES at CAMBRIDGE have settled that the annual Oxford and Cambridge sports are not to be held there this year, a decision received with much regret by the Oxonians. The policy of the authorities of Cambridge is extremely questionable, as they will most probably drive the young men to London, where they will be under no control and subjected to temptations unknown at the Universities.

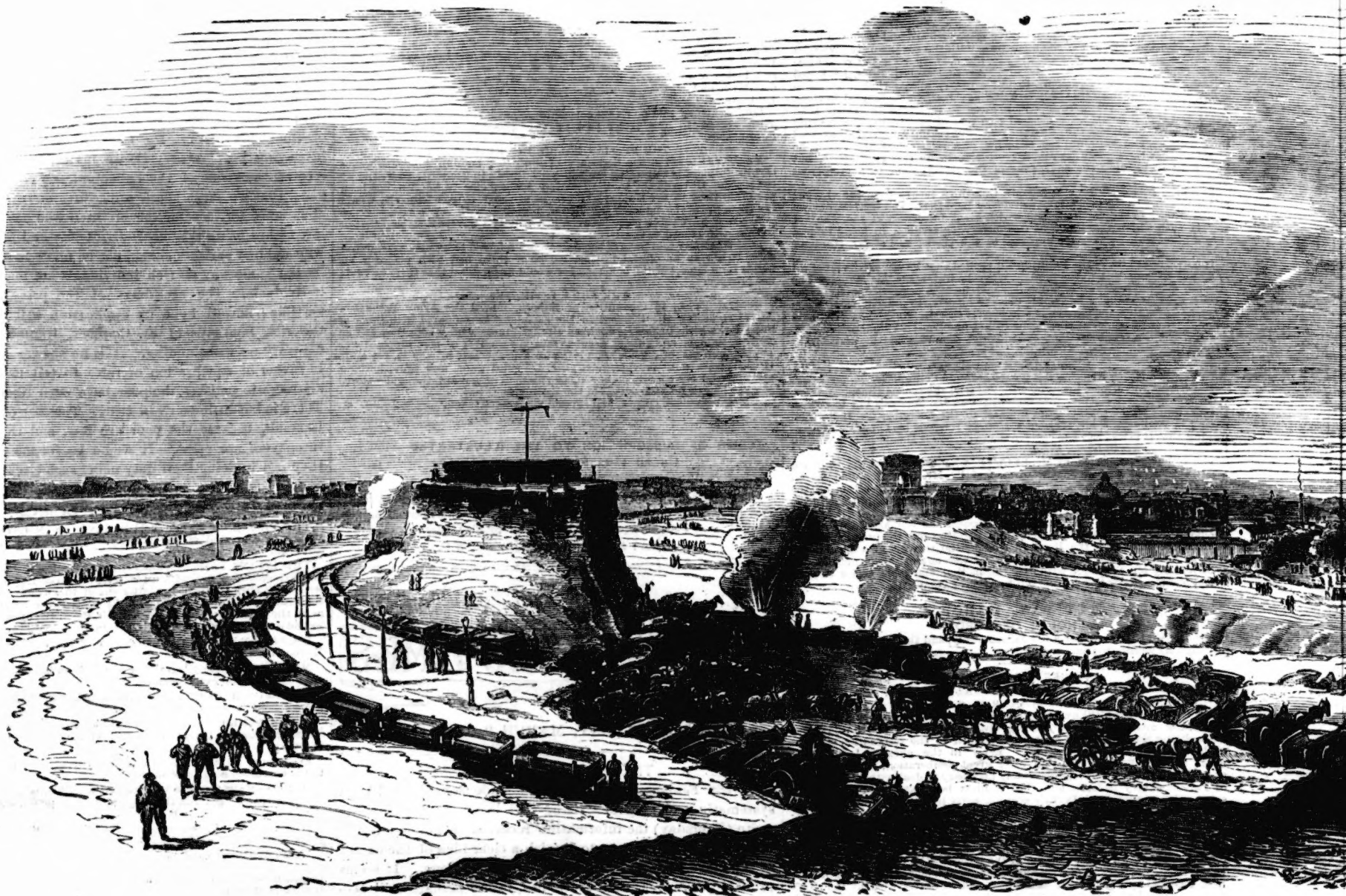
A MEETING of debenture-holders in the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway was held on Monday, at which it was proposed to promote a bill in Parliament to transfer all litigation affecting the company and its affairs to a "tribunal of arbitration and appeal," consisting of a Judge and two other competent and impartial persons nominated by the Board of Trade. Resolutions were passed, almost unanimously, in favour of the scheme.

THE JUDGES appointed to adjudicate on the designs for the new National Gallery have made their report to the Chief Commissioner, and it was presented on Thursday last. The report states that the judges are unanimous in not recommending the actual execution of anyone of the designs, but they are of opinion that the design of Mr. Edward Barry for a new building, and that of Mr. Murray for alterations of the old, possess great architectural merit.

A MEETING, convened by the Lord Mayor, in compliance with a numerously-signed requisition, was held, at the Guildhall, on Monday, for the purpose of denouncing the sale of intoxicating liquors on Sunday. A petition praying for an alteration of the law to prevent the opening of public and beer houses on that day altogether was adopted. Archbishop Manning was one of the principal speakers in favour of the proposal.

THE IRISH RIFLE ASSOCIATION has now been formally constituted. Rules, which appear well fitted to secure the effective working of the society, have been drawn up and agreed to. Trustees have been appointed, and the necessary rules for the election of president, vice-presidents, council, &c., have been compiled with unusual care. Lord Clonbrock, Lord Dufferin, Lord Talbot de Malahide, and Major Henry Arthur Herbert, M.P., have been appointed trustees.

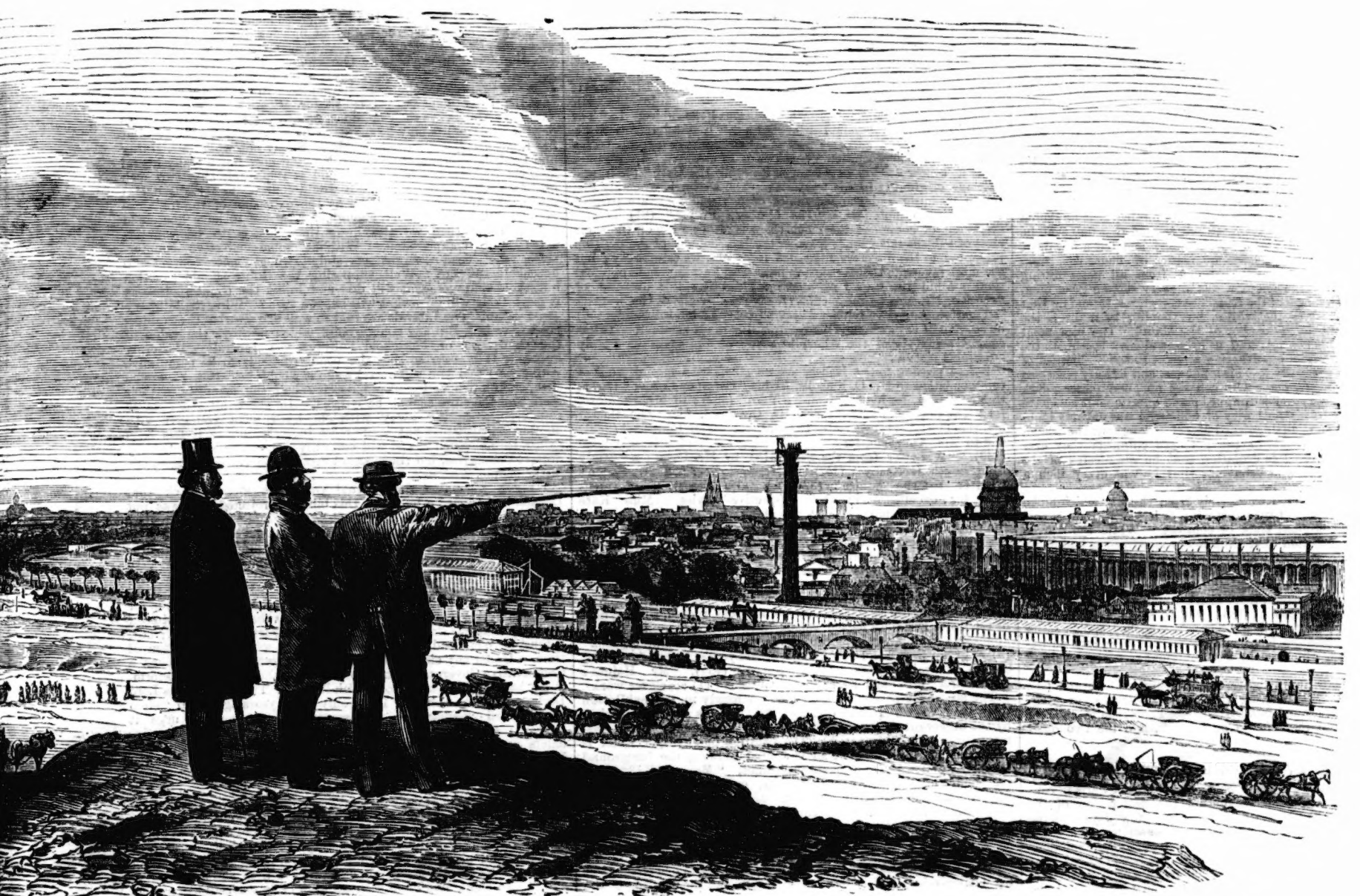
MR. F. STRANGE, the managing director of the Alhambra Company (Limited), will take his annual benefit at the Alhambra Palace on Wednesday next, March 13. The large orchestra of the establishment will on this occasion be increased to 150 performers, the chorus to about eighty singers, and the musical part of the programme will be nearly doubled. The usual ballets will be given, and the performances (by permission) will be extended to a later hour.



VIEW OF THE PARIS EXHIBITION BUILDING



WILLIAM THOMPSON, WILLIAM KING, AND OTHER NEW ZEALAND CHIEFS.



AND PARK, SEEN FROM THE RUINS OF THE TROCADÉRO.



"A RIVER-SIDE SCENE."—(AFTER THE PICTURE, BY G. COLE, ESQ., IN THE EXHIBITION OF THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.)

THE MAORI CHIEFS.

We have to announce the death of William Thompson, the Maori chief, one of the most remarkable men that any native race has ever produced. He fought against us in the Waikato war, and fought with skill and gallantry. He conducted military operations in a manner which excited the ungrudging admiration of General Cameron; and he averred that he took up arms not because he hated the English or was inimical to the rule of the Queen, but to defend the right of his people to their land and to prevent the extinction of their national life. A letter from New Zealand, dated Jan. 8, says:—

"William Thompson is dead. He has been seriously ailing for the last six months, and fears were entertained during his visit to Wellington last August that he would not live to return to Waikato. During the past two months no hope had been entertained of his recovery by the medical men sent to attend him. He has been moved from one favourite place of residence to another, and it was while being conveyed in a litter across a mountain range that he died. He seems to have had for some days a fatality that he should die on the 28th ult., and it was on the evening of that day that he died. His people had also seen that he could last but a few days, and had meanwhile ordered large quantities of flour, &c., from Auckland, to feast the natives expected from all parts during the days of mourning. Thompson was in every sense a great man. He was the prime mover of the King movement, not intending that it should be inimical to the whites, but hoping to make it the means of preserving the nationality of the Maori. The movement grew too large for his control; and, as he was always leaning to the side of peace and active in preventing a resort to the barbarities of native warfare, he gradually lost his influence, and latterly possessed comparatively little. By those who can see no good under a dark skin he was regarded as double-tongued; and questionable acts have often been ascribed to his authority of which he was entirely ignorant. He was the most distinguished Maori throughout the island, one of the greatest friends to the northern colonists they ever had; and not a few persist in declaring that he manifested in the whole tone of his morals and behaviour that he was every inch a gentleman.

"Taranaki, which suffered so severely from the war which broke out in 1860, and which has harassed it more or less ever since, is now fast recovering its original state of comfort. While the war so demoralised its population that even lately recourse has had to be made to a poor rate—the first that has been imposed in any province—yet the general condition of the people is steadily improving. The lands formerly under cultivation have been reoccupied, with but trifling exceptions, and several fresh districts added; while the sheep, which in 1858 were 16,000, in 1861 10,000, in 1864 12,000, now number 20,000. New industries have been established, and an entire cessation of Maori troubles is all that is wanted to induce an extensive immigration, which would find abundant resources awaiting development."

The figures in our Engraving represent William Thompson (the Maori King) and William King (the native Warwick, or king-maker), and their wives and fathers-in-law. Thompson is standing erect, with King and the females on his left, and the two other chiefs on his right.

RECENT WORKS AT THE TROCADERO, IN PARIS.

AMONG the operations which are being carried on in Paris in connection with the forthcoming Exhibition the destruction of the Trocadero is one of the most recent. Only a few days ago the inhabitants of the district of Passy were conscious of a great trembling and shaking of their houses, and a series of explosions which, had they not been forewarned, would have been rather alarming. Hundreds of mines and about 2000 pounds of powder were expended in blowing up the place where the new square is to be built, exactly opposite the Exhibition building. The Trocadero is that rising ground where some remains of the old walls of Paris were to be found; and it was here that the First Napoleon intended to have a splendid palace built for the unhappy Prince who was born King of Rome and died an Austrian Colonel. A great crowd assembled to witness the operation of the mines on the occasion of blowing up the hill and the destruction of the last of the ancient wall in order to make room for the great square, the name of which (Place du Roi de Rome) will perpetuate the historical association of the locality. The working miners, under the direction of M. Edine Piot, had prepared from 1000 to 1200 blasts, which succeeded each other almost uninterruptedly from three to five o'clock, and sounded like the firing of a park of artillery. The blowing up of the wall was a very curious spectacle, since for some time it resisted the force applied to it; and, though one blast cracked it and another shattered its foundations, several minutes elapsed before it fell into ruin. Several of the people who afterwards went to see the effects of the explosions carried away fragments of the stone as memorials of the event. The formation of the new square will proceed as rapidly as possible, in order that it may at least be a regular open space by the time of the opening of the International Exhibition. Our Engraving represents the view of the park and the bridge of Jena from these heights of Trocadero, whence the visitor may now witness a marvellous coup-d'œil, and the square which is to be formed on the site of the destroyed mound will form a very important addition to that new Paris which is so rapidly extending. It is probable that the buildings ultimately constructed there will be in the style of those of the Arc de Triomphe and of quite a monumental type; and there is a proposition to form eight spacious avenues, leading by main streets to the surrounding neighbourhoods. The Place du Roi de Rome will, in fact, become the connecting link between Passy and Chaillot, and between the Champ de Mars and the Plain of Passy.

FINE ARTS.

THE EXHIBITION OF THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.

WHEN it was announced by the directors of the British Institution that the gallery would not be opened this year, a petition was prepared and signed by a large body of artists urging the loss and inconvenience consequent on such a step; and the directors, with a laudable desire to promote the interests of art, consented to hold the exhibition as usual. It is to be regretted that the artists, on the whole, have not done much to acknowledge the favour: it would have been better, perhaps, for art, if the doors in Pall-mall had remained closed this spring. For many years past the British Institution has showed symptoms of decline. This season it is worse than ever—a fact which, to judge from the small number of works that bear the mystic legend, "Sold," the public has not failed to perceive. There are upwards of 600 paintings exhibited, about a hundred of which, at a liberal calculation, are worthy of a place in any exhibition; while others, to double that number, ought never for an instant to have lumbered the walls.

Among the figure-subjects the most important in size and most striking in treatment is Mr. Tourrier's "To Arms!" (482). A couple of men-at-arms, who have been gambling on a drumhead, are suddenly aroused in the middle of the game by the trumpet-call to arms. The alarm affects each man differently. The bluff soldier instantly dismisses all thoughts of trumps and tricks, and grasps his pike; but his companion, a pale, rascally-looking knave, who seems to have had a touch of bad luck, instinctively clutches at the stakes. Mr. John Gilbert contributes one of his facile and vigorous paintings—"Don Quixote's Return Home" (66), a picture full of character and admirably composed. Mr. E. C. Barnes gives us a new version of "Mariana" (182), which is not the usual one, but is as clever as it is new. It represents the poor lady at a period when the grief at her abandonment by Angelo was fresh and poignant, and before time and suffering had converted her into the pale patience generally accepted as the embodiment of the lonely lady of the moated grange. "This Way, My Lady!" (354), by the same artist, is a costume-picture, which is a good example of the happy eye for harmony of colour and the sound method of working of a

painter whose rapidly maturing powers are every year obtaining wider recognition.

Mr. Smallfield, one of our most brilliant colourists in water colour, exhibits two or three small pictures—"A Man of Colour" (209), a clever study; "A Hedge" (568), in which the figure is somewhat too small; and "Southern Idlers" (57), which the ignorance of the hangers has placed far above criticism. Mr. Weekes is represented by a few small subjects, of which "Plunder" (80) is perhaps the most effective, though all are soundly and carefully painted. Mr. Haylar is not wholly successful in his "Marking Birds" (287). He has tried to render a difficult effect, so the failure is pardonable. His "All among the Poppies" (197) is a delicious little subject. In "The Slave" (514), Mr. Fitzgerald strikes out a new line, different from his ordinary style, and succeeds well in it, as might be expected of a painter whose appreciation of colour is so strong. Mr. Wyburd gives us a new version of "Imogen Entering the Cave" (380), and displays originality in his treatment. The action is womanly and full of meaning, and the accessories of fern and rock are painted with loving minuteness. "The Mother's Prayer" (81) is also deserving of commendation; but there is rather a run on the same class of subject this year. Whether the last sentence of the petition presented to the directors suggested it or not, we cannot say; but the most favourite theme seems to have been kneeling and supplication. Amid the crowd of works representing this exercise of devotion, Mr. Moscheles's picture (17) is possibly one of the best.

The Hon. Augustus Lumley displays in his "Dutch Interior" (156) an amount of skill which is really surprising in an amateur. He has caught the style of the school to a nicety, and gives us a truly admirable picture.

Before passing to the landscapes, we may give a special word of commendation to Mr. C. Nicholls, for his "Chimney Corner" (297); to Mr. Henley, for his "Spinning a Yarn" (332); to Mr. Horsford, for "The Doctor's Plot" (44); to Mr. Crawford, for "The Doctor and the Thief" (112); to Mr. Rossiter, for "The Cousins" (283); and to Mrs. Anderson, for a very charming study of a female head (139). "A Letter from the Sea" (318), by Mr. Lucas; a "Study from South Germany" (152), by Mr. Ludovici; and Mr. Soden's "Letter to the Squire" (92), are also deserving of mention for excellence in their respective styles. Miss Kate Swift has too bronzy a tone about her "Industry Better than Gold" (299), which mars the effect of an otherwise good picture. Mr. Brodie flings great life and truth into his treatment of "Lord Ullin's daughter" (498). Mr. Gale's "Syrian Girl" (460) is painted with his usual richness and brilliance. Mr. H. K. Browne has not done wisely in selecting the last scene in "Sinttram and his Companions" (355) for his theme. The remarkable picture by Albert Durer, which was, indeed, the keynote of La Motte Fouquet's legend, should have warned him off. Mr. A. Johnstone exhibits some pleasing little works, "The Child-Queen" (3), a group from his large picture in last year's Royal Academy, and a charming little "Poor Robin" (451). Mr. Haines's "Armourer" (207) and Mr. Dicksee's "Jessica" (1) are clever works.

The landscape-painters muster pretty strongly in the exhibition this year. "Loch Muich" (172), by Mr. Oakes, is a picture marked by the observant reverence for nature and effective breadth of treatment for which he is noted. The painting of sky and water is admirable; but a little more air is wanted to bring the foreground away and give a better estimate of distance. "Moonrise" (326), by the same artist, is a fine bold work, completely successful in realising the peculiar effect aimed at. Mr. Dawson should, perhaps, resist a little more often a tendency to select one aspect of sky and cloud, for fear of self-repetition, which is an insidious but fatal fault. His "On the Trent" (189) is, nevertheless, an admirable picture; and so is "Bracebridge Pool" (216). Mr. G. Cole might possibly take a hint from our remarks on Mr. Dawson's proneness to one effect; but his "River-side" (209) is very true to nature, and the painting of the sunlight is admirable. So much pleased are we with this picture that, as our readers will perceive, we publish an Engraving of it on page 153. Mr. Wingfield might benefit by a study of this picture; for his "Sunshine" (181) is much more like moonshine, and his landscape reminds us of a set scene. "Criccieth Church" (145), by Mr. C. P. Knight, is a clever picture, though not so good as other works of his that we have seen. Mr. Pilleau's "First Day on the Nile" (388) is thoroughly worthy of the reputation which his water-colour pictures of Eastern scenery have long since won for him. Mrs. Robertson Blaine, who also paints Oriental landscape, gives us a capital realisation of the glare and stillness of the climate in her "Caravan Nearing Cairo" (215).

Mr. C. J. Lewis takes Tennyson's "Brook" (282) for his theme, and treats it with great truth. The coming storm, heralded by the gusts of wind that whiten the willows and lash the stream into mimic billows, is admirably indicated. It is a real bit of English landscape.

Mr. J. Danby is a painter of sufficient power and originality, we should have thought, to be able to sacrifice any subject which could possibly suggest that he borrowed inspirations from his pictures. "Taken in Tow" (45) was doubtless painted from a sketch from nature; but the arrangement is so curiously like Turner's "Old Temeraire" that we can hardly understand how Mr. Danby could hesitate for a moment as to its rejection. The painting is all that could be desired.

Mr. Mignot's "Sunset Sky" (471) is, as might be expected of him, a vivid realisation of a natural effect; but it is to be looked on as a tour de force rather than a picture. Mr. Walters has two landscapes on the walls, "The Trent" (128) and "On the Thames" (341); both are really admirable. Few painters excel Mr. Walters in the happy treatment of those quiet aspects of nature which it is so pleasant to contemplate, whether on canvas or in reality. Mr. Pettit gives us another of his series of Alpine views, "The Matterhorn" (12); and Mr. A. Gilbert repeats, in a view in "North Wales" (362), a moonlight effect with which he has long familiarised us. Mr. George Stanfield is worthily represented by a scene in "Venice" (138), in which he shows that he has done much to shake off a tendency we noted some time since, to give aerial perspective by broad gradations which lent too scenic an effect to his paintings.

Mr. Dawson, jun., exhibits a good view of "Rochester" (220); Mr. H. Johnson, a somewhat poetic rendering of "Edinburgh" (153); and Mr. Adams, a clever picture of "Llyn Idwal" (218), in which the water is especially well painted.

Our space will not permit us to give more than a passing notice of the merits of the works of Messrs. Williams, Gill, Rose, Peel, Roffe, and Lucy; but their names are well known to the public, and will sufficiently guarantee the excellence of their paintings. Mr. Niemann has allowed his fine view at "Henley" (177) to be spoiled by the introduction of animals—intended, we presume, for horses—by Mr. de Prades. A picture of "Horses Going to a Fair" (19), by Mr. de Prades, has been placed in the post of honour in the North Room, for no other reason that we can conjecture than because, a few years since, some critics who should have known better praised a "Russian Post-house" of his—a picture for which he seemed principally indebted to his recollection of a similar subject by a foreign artist. It is pleasant to turn from the "Horses Going to a Fair" of this gentleman to Mr. Beavis's masterly picture of "Harrowing in Normandy" (40), in which the horses are splendidly drawn. Mr. Beavis has only lately turned his attention to animal-painting; but he has at once achieved a foremost place in that school of art. Mr. J. C. Thom gives us a poetic little picture of a ewe and lambskins, entitled "The Mother" (229). Mr. Tax's picture of "A Norwegian Mare" (311) is noticeable not only for the quality of the work, but for the peculiarities of the animal which stood for the portrait.

When we say that the marine subjects in the gallery are by Mr. Cooke, Mr. Hayes, and Mr. Melby, we have said enough to prove that, whatever may be the faults of the exhibition in other departments, in this it stands unrivalled. Mr. Cooke's contributions are not so large in dimensions as in merit. The "Ostend Pier" (70) of Mr. Hayes and Mr. Melby's "Armed Knight Rock" (60) hang close together. Each abounds in truth, and each displays the ever-changing sea under a different aspect, with marvellous wave-drawing and transparency.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE Conservative Government is doomed to speedy dissolution. It has made itself contemptible; and when a Government has come to be despised, be sure its end is not far off. "Give it rope enough, and it will hang itself," said an experienced member only a fortnight ago, when combating the policy of fighting the Government on going into Committee upon the resolutions; and rope was given, and see what has happened. The Government has already been nigh strangling—a little more rope, and it will effectually commit suicide. I do not believe that there are twenty men in the House who think that the Government can last till Easter. Some very sanguine men, whose interest sways their opinions, fancy that, having cut away its dead weight, its life may be spared as by a surgical operation. But has it cut away all its dead weight? Surely not whilst Mr. Hardy and Lord John Manners remain. Nothing now but a really liberal measure of Reform can succeed, and is it possible that two such obstinate Conservatives as these would consent to a really liberal measure? We know that so far as the extension of the franchise goes the bill is to be liberal enough, for we are to have household suffrage; but then we also know that this is to be counteracted and compensated. Without some effective counterpoise, the dead weight certainly would not consent to household suffrage. Well, supposing the House should sanction household suffrage—as it will do—and reject the counterpoise—as it most likely will do—what will happen then? Why, the Ministry must resign. The Liberals are told to wait and see what the counterpoise is to be. But any counterpoise which destroys the value of the concession of household suffrage, the Liberals will sternly oppose. It is asserted that the counterpoise is to be cumulative voting, as I told you some weeks ago it would be. But, as I said then, cumulative voting would deprive half the members of their seats, and therefore cannot be carried. In short, all attempts at counterpoise—taking away with one hand what you give with another, as Gladstone put it—is mere jugglery, or, as it has been called, thimblerrigging, and will certainly fail. The Ministers may deceive themselves, but they cannot deceive the House of Commons or the people.

Do you remember that I told you some months back that Disraeli had framed a bill, that this bill was rejected, and was put back into a pigeon-hole in his desk to be ready against an emergency? Well, this was literally true, and now the emergency is come. "The Government is going to recur to its original policy," said Disraeli—that is, to that identical bill, the large measure which had to give way to a smaller to satisfy and keep in office General Peel, Lord Cranbourne, and the Earl of Carnarvon. By-the-way, Lord Cranbourne once said in the *Quarterly Review* that Disraeli was for ever leading his party into a ditch. But it is the noble Lord himself that this time has dragged the Conservative party into a ditch; but, it must be confessed, only prematurely. It was only a question of time. Under any circumstances the ditch was inevitable when a Conservative Government undertook to settle the question of Reform. What have Conservatives to do with Reform? Their mission, as Lord Derby said in the House of Lords only a few years ago, is to "stem the onward-flowing tide of democracy," and not to urge it forward; and I suspect that, but for the exigency, the Conservative chiefs never would have undertaken this desperate business. They had been so long out of office that their supporters, especially the lawyers, were getting clamorous for pay. Like the old Jews, they cried out, querulously, "When are we to get into this promised land?" and then, further, certain superannuated Judges were hanging on till their party should come in, and could not hang on much longer. And so Lord Derby was obliged to take the first chance of office, albeit the taking of it involved a necessity to deal with Reform, which he hates, and although he well knew that, being in a minority in the House, he could not possibly expect more than a few months of power. In short, had there been no hungry, clamorous supporters to be satisfied, he would not have ventured upon such a desperate campaign as that which clearly lay before him. Well, he has satisfied this hungry pack; but, it is to be feared, at an irreparable cost of reputation.

The latest statements I have heard as to the Ministerial appointments are that the Duke of Richmond is to be President of the Board of Trade, the Duke of Buckingham Secretary for the Colonies, Sir Stafford Northcote for India, Sir J. Pakington for War, Mr. Corry succeeding Sir John at the Admiralty. The Duke of Marlborough is to replace his Grace of Bucks as President of the Council.

It is with the most unfeigned sorrow that I chronicle the death of poor Artemus Ward, which took place at Radley's Hotel, Southampton, on Wednesday last. No man ever endeared himself in so short a time to so many friends as he did. He came to England but a few months back, a stranger save in name; but he leaves a large circle of friends, who mourn for him most deeply. I never met with a man more kindly in disposition or more considerate or generous in his relations with others. His death will hardly take those who saw him by surprise, for he was very delicate in appearance, and showed all the signs of the fatal disease, consumption, which has so rapidly carried him off. Some weeks since he closed the Egyptian Hall and went to Jersey for the benefit of his health. But the change did him no good, and he returned to Southampton with the intention of sailing for America. But he was not again to see his home, or his mother, his only living relation, of whom he spoke in terms of the tenderest affection. When he learned that he was doomed, he faced death with a calm and manly resignation, his only regret being that he could not see his country and his mother. Although he died in a strange land, it was among friends who were truly attached to him. He will be interred at Kensal-green, and a meeting has been called at the Savage Club to arrange the funeral, and to give those who knew and loved him an opportunity of paying him the last melancholy honours.

Last Monday and Tuesday were the sending-in days at the Suffolk-street Gallery. I hear that a very good exhibition is expected, owing to the British having opened so early this year that many artists were unable to finish their pictures in time. The Society of British Artists has been strengthened of late by the accession of young artists, who have lent new life to the old constitution, and by whose active co-operation many wise advances and desirable reforms have been effected. The opening of two rooms for the exhibition of water-colour drawings is one of the steps thus made. I should be really glad to see the society taking the position which it was intended to take, and which it might take. The Royal Academy just now is too much influenced by clique, and there is such a preponderance of the northern element that it has been suggested it should be called the Mac-ademy. If the Suffolk-street Society were to push on as its younger members desire, the R.A.s. might be awakened to the situation, and a generous rivalry might arise which would be highly beneficial to both bodies.

Will you allow me, in reply to several inquiries, to state that Mr. Henry Vizetelly's work on "The Great Diamond Necklace Fraud" is published by Messrs. Tinsley, of Catherine-street, Strand, from whom, or through any bookseller, the work may be obtained.

Railway time-tables have long been a puzzle to travellers, and it is even difficult to believe that the officials of the various lines themselves understand the mysteries of these compilations and the labyrinth of lines the operations of which they are supposed to exhibit. To most people Bradshaw is a perfect myth, and the *A B C Guide* is both meagre and unsatisfactory in its information. A new guide, that should make plain to ordinary comprehension the complications of the time-tables—that should unravel the perplexities of main lines and branches, of junctions, and loops, and deviations—would therefore be a great boon to the travelling public. Such a boon, I fancy, is likely to be supplied in *The Popular Railway Guide*, a specimen of which lies before me. This guide promises to be "intelligible to all," and, judging by this portion, its promise seems likely to be fulfilled. The plan adopted is to separate the main lines from the branches, and to give the time of starting, &c., of trains on each in separate tables, indicating the connection of the branches with the main line by means of reference-letters and distinctive characters of type. The South-Eastern system is the one given in this first part, and certainly shows

a vast improvement upon the old style of guide. Here one can see at a glance the whole course from London to Dover; and then, guided by the reference letters, can with equal ease trace the junctions and points of departure of the seven or eight different branches with which it is connected. The result is a great simplification of the information furnished, which must confer marvellous ease of mind and comfort on the traveller. The price is one penny per part, each part containing a complete guide to one of our great railway systems. Guides to the principal groups are in preparation on the same plan, and the whole, when completed, will be corrected and reissued each month.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER. THE MAGAZINES.

In the letter of one of your correspondents upon the Martineau professorship question, I noticed, Mr. Editor, the remark that the fact that a man of ability belonged to one school of philosophic thought rather than to another was no good reason against appointing him to teach in a college, because his office would be to teach philosophy rather than any particular philosophy, though his own specific opinions would necessarily colour his teaching. That observation I remember confirming in this column at the time. If any of your readers doubted, or still doubt, about it, they will probably take the word of Mr. Mill, in his inaugural address at St. Andrew's, the other day. He expressly says, speaking even of a teacher of moral philosophy—"It is not the teacher's business to impose his own judgment" [in these matters], "but to inform and discipline that of the pupil." This address is given at some length in a good periodical called the *British Controversialist*, whose wish that it was issued in a cheaper form (I think the price of the volume is 5s.) I cordially echo.

Let me make a separate paragraph for the sake of calling attention to Mr. Mill's strictures upon fine writing in general—strictures made in connection with the value of classical studies as a school of sincerity and exactitude of expression. We are all of us miserable sinners, no doubt; and most of us make mistakes—I'm sure I do. But I can honestly say that I never write a "clever" thing because it's "clever," and that I do my little best to hold up for observance the golden rule of composition—Whenever you have written anything that appears particularly good, strike it out.

In *Blackwood* the little story, "Brounlow's," is scarcely so natural this month as it has hitherto been; but it is a neat, healthy tale. The article on "Hymns of the Populace" is wonderfully fair and well-informed; and Mr. Richard Weaver, "the converted collier," is treated with more than fairness—with positive kindness. We may observe that the hymn referred to at the end of page 308 as particularly out-of-the-way, is not new—it is well known in Wesleyan chapels.

The *Cornhill* is going back to some of our old warriors, considered as tacticians and generals. We have before had Richard I.; the present number takes up Edward I. Mr. Trollope has, in my opinion, not succeeded in fixing his readers' sympathies with the Burtons: mine, at all events, linger with Lady Ongar, for the present, as much as they can dwell with any character in the story. Her behaviour in the opening of the narrative was odious, shocking; but she was not a muff. The Burtons are muffs, or something like it, in my opinion. The article on "Female Education in Germany," the "Reminiscences of an English Cadet in the Austrian Service," and the other papers in the current number, are good.

In *Macmillan* Mrs. Norton unmasks the villain of her story, Mr. James Frere, with a ruthlessness which suggests that she must have known somebody like him once and found reason to hate him. Her treatment of the scoundrel is almost personal from first to last. Lady Duff Gordon's "Longshore Life at Bonlak" is extremely pleasant reading. If there are really fresh "Dangers in India," as another article suggests, and if they should not be averted, we stand a chance of having our hands full enough, we English. The number, generally, is good and interesting. It is needless to praise Mr. Palgrave in vague terms, and there is no space for detailed criticism. The continuation of his article on Mr. Conington's "Æneid" seems to me to be admirable.

THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The Christmas bills—I mean the Christmas play-bills—which have presented the same unvarying face to the passer-by for the last two months, are either undergoing, or are about to undergo, some important change. Either the Christmas pantomime or burlesque has run itself out, or the piece that preceded it is at length unequal to the task of attracting those who are not to be attracted by spangles, blue fire, puns, and legs. The most important change is to be found in the St. James's Bill—a new comedy, adapted from Victorien Sardou's "Le Dégel," by Mr. T. W. Robertson, having taken the place of "The Road to Ruin." And here let me congratulate Mr. Robertson on his candour and pluck in openly admitting in the play-bill his obligation to the gentleman who furnished him with the broad materials of his comedy; and permit me to express a hope that this straightforward procedure on his part will induce Messrs. Leicester Buckingham, Tom Taylor, and others, who systematically adapt from the French without any acknowledgment whatever, to pause before they are again guilty of the dishonesty of palming off another man's work as their own.

"A Rapid Thaw"—which is the title of Mr. Robertson's adaptation—possesses many merits and many defects. It is graceful, picturesque, and lively; but it is, at the same time, too thoroughly French in its dialogue, and too slight in its construction, to obtain a unanimously favourable verdict from an English audience. The plot is simple to a fault, and its simplicity is only made the more apparent by the introduction of several minor characters who embarrass the progress of the piece without adding at all to the complication of the plot, which is simply this:—First act: Hector de Bascompiere, a French "Captain Rolando," is an avowed hater of women. Second act: the beauty of Henrietta de Fronsac induces the young misogynist to change his mind on that point. Now, if the Park Ranger (played by Mr. Dyas) and the two young ladies whose parts are filled by Miss Ada Cavendish and Miss Jones were cut out of the piece—not because they are badly played, for they are not, but because they are wholly irrelevant to the issue—the piece would be immeasurably the better for it. Miss Herbert played Hector with her usual care, and succeeded in raising a singularly apathetic audience—even for the St. James's—to enthusiasm in the second act, notwithstanding the too-evident fact that there was a clique in the house whose interests were wholly antagonistic to those of the author. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Matthews were capitally fitted as the Baron and Baroness de Nullepertiers, and contributed in no small degree to the success of the piece. Mr. Irving was rather out of place as a comic Irishman, and Miss Carlotta Addison—a most charming representative of those simple, demure, and at the same time rather shrewd young ladies who are known on the French stage as *ingénues*—a term for which we have no equivalent in English—made the most of a part which was wholly disproportionate to her unmistakable abilities. Miss Bufton has made an important stride in her profession by her impersonation of Henrietta. I have never seen this promising actress in a part which showed her off to such advantage. In the second act, which contains several pieces of the most delicate "comedy" dialogue, she fairly astonished her audience.

Mr. Gilbert à Beckett's adaptation of "Nos Bons Villageois" was produced at the HAYMARKET, on Monday, under the title of "Hearts and Diamonds." The dialogue is everywhere good, and in parts even brilliant; but a long three-act comedy, coming, as it does, after another exceptionally-long three-act comedy, has not the ghost of a chance. "The School for Scandal," if produced for the first time under such circumstances, would have been a failure. It is the first important work of a promising young dramatist, and there is enough of the genuine metal in it to justify us in looking forward to his next production with interest. It is too long in parts, and notably in the last act, which might be reduced by about one third with advantage. The piece is well played by nearly everybody concerned, and especially by Miss Nelly Moore, whose performance in the last act is a triumph of delicacy.

Literature.

The Turks, the Greeks, and the Slavons: Travels in the Slavonic Provinces of Turkey-in-Europe. By G. MUIR MACKENZIE and A. P. IRBY. With Maps, and numerous Illustrations by F. Kanitz. London: Bell and Daldy.

Turkey-in-Europe! Is there any part of our division of the globe that is so full of interest, so renowned in the past and so little known in the present, as those portions of it which are known by the general name of European Turkey? Some parts of this region—as Epirus and Macedonia—are associated with the names of Pyrrhus, Philip, and Alexander, and the dawnings of secular history; others, like Thessalonica, are intensely interesting as the scene of the labours of the great apostle of the Gentiles; others, again, are famous as the battle-grounds of the long struggle between the East and the West, the Crescent and the Cross, the Bible and the Koran, which was brought to a conclusion under the auspices of Prince Eugene on the bloody field of Peterwardein and by the capture and battle of Belgrade; at later periods these provinces, or some of them, witnessed the contest for power between Turkey and Russia; they were also the scenes of some of the exploits of the armies of the First Napoleon; in them were enacted the opening scenes of the war of 1855-6; and in them everywhere at the present day are visible the heavings and stirrings of peoples eager for independence, freedom, and nationality. That ever-troublesome "Eastern question"—in other words, the propriety of maintaining the existence and domination of the Turks as a Power in Europe—is likely to have its next development in some one or other (perhaps in all) of the fair provinces of Europe really or nominally under the rule of the Osmanlee. Free Serbia, and Wallachia and Moldavia—now known as Roumania—have already practically achieved their independence, and form a nucleus around which the other provinces, kindred in people and language, are likely to agglomerate, first, perhaps, in a confederation, and afterwards, probably, in a political and social union. Deeply interesting, then, is all the information we can obtain regarding these lands and their inhabitants; and in publishing the volume before us Messrs. Mackenzie and Irby have done a most valuable service to Great Britain and to the world at large. The heel of the Turkish conqueror has been pressed heavily upon the necks of the people subject to his domination; there is everywhere a strong disposition to resist, and to throw off the yoke of the oppressor; and nowhere, on the part of the Turkish rulers, is there indicated the capacity to read the signs of the times, or to accommodate themselves or their system to the altered circumstances by which they are surrounded. Without making themselves in any degree partisans, our authors have apparently come to the conclusion that the presence of the Turk in Europe is an anomaly and a nuisance. The Porte derives little strength from his European territory; while the manner in which it is ruled in his name unavoidably entails much obloquy upon the system of government patronised at Constantinople. Such, in brief, is the state of affairs in the European provinces of Turkey, in which a political outbreak may at any moment occur—to the serious disturbance of the peace as well as of the policy of Europe.

The authors of the work before us have taken every means in their power to place accurate information before the public; they have read industriously, they have travelled extensively, and they have observed minutely. The result is a work of more than ordinary interest and value, and one which we cordially recommend to the perusal—nay, the study—of all who take an interest in the politics of Europe and in the current events of the day. It is a somewhat bulky volume, to be sure; but then it is, as it were, several books in one. It treats of history, topography, antiquities, ethnology, legendary and ballad literature, and the origin and affinity of language, together with the political and social condition of the people, and their manners, customs, and characteristics. The style of the writers is plain, simple, and attractive; the narrative runs smoothly on; and there is as little as possible of the pedantry of learning as exhibited in peculiar methods of spelling, &c.—a fault into which travellers generally are so prone to fall. The maps are well executed, and the pictorial illustrations are excellent, as will be seen by the specimens which we print on page 148. We conclude our notice of this admirable work by a few extracts descriptive of these engravings. These passages, we ought to mention, are not consecutive; we have picked out bits here and there as they seemed to bear upon particular points. Consequently, many gaps occur between the portions selected.

MUSULMANS AND RATAHS.

On the state of the several elements of the population of the Turkish provinces in Europe our authors, in their introduction, say:—

The north of Turkey-in-Europe, and the South of the Austrian empire, together with Montenegro, which lies between them, are inhabited by races speaking the Slavonic tongue. Those in Austria inhabit the Slovene country, and the so-called Triune kingdom of Slavonia, Croatia, and Dalmatia—besides several districts in Hungary; those in Turkey live between Macedonia and the Danube, and are divided according to their dialects into Bulgarians and Serbs. Altogether they number from ten to twelve millions, and form the southern division of the Slavonic race.

The South Slavonic peoples have occupied their present seats for more than 1000 years. Until the end of the fourteenth century they mostly remained independent, and, in respect of civilisation, stood fairly on a level with neighbouring lands. Then came the Mahometan deluge, wherein those parts of Europe lying nearest Asia had the ill-luck to be overflooded, and when, except the rocks of Montenegro, almost every Slavonic district south of the Danube sank under the power of the Turk. Croatia, by alliances with Hungary and Austria—Dalmatia being taken by Venice—escaped subjection to Musulman yoke; but their development was grievously retarded by the border warfare of which they became the scene. As for their eastern kinsmen, it was not till the beginning of this century that a handful of Serbians dwelling on the south bank of the Danube succeeded in wringing from the Porte a recognition of their right to govern themselves. At present, their chosen native ruler acknowledges the Sultan as suzerain, and in their capital has to tolerate a Turkish garrison, but in other respects their self-government is complete. Hence, they have been able to escape the law of the Koran for a European code, and to start on a career not inaptly characterised by a well-informed and well-known British writer, as that of the "youngest member of the European family."

But the number of free Serbians scarcely exceeds a million; the Danubian principality is a fraction of their land. The districts called Old Servia, Bosnia, Herzegovina, and the whole of Bulgaria—with a population of from six to eight millions—are still administered by Mahometan officials.

Throughout Turkey-in-Europe the name "Turk" is used to express a Mahometan; the name "Greek" to denote a Christian of the Eastern Church. The idea that all the Christian population of Turkey is Greek by race has of late been dissipated by persons careful to insist on the antipathy that really divides Slav from Hellenic. Division also exists among the Mahometans. The Osmanlee, or real Turk, is in a small minority, and is profoundly detested by Albanian and Slavonic Musulmans, who make no secret of the fact that self-interest alone has ever bound them to his cause, and that, should the luck turn against him, they would not be sorry to have the opportunity of repaying many a grudge. In Bulgaria there is a good sprinkling of Osmanlee town residents, but in the western districts—Old Servia, Bosnia, and Herzegovina—it is generally said that they could be emptied of Osmanlees by simply recalling the officials and garrisons of towns. Few positions are so difficult or so false as that of governors among a population whose language they cannot speak, and which detests their sway. No one, we should hope, would judge of Germans by the Austrian officials in Hungary, and one certainly would not judge the Turks as a nation from what is to be seen of them scattered here and there as governors of the Slavonic provinces.

As the secular governors of the Porte in these provinces are Osmanlees, not Slavonic Musulmans, so its ecclesiastical governors are Greeks, not Slavonic Christians. It was an eminent Philhellene, and one who cared very little for Slavonic "barbarians," who first used to us the phrase "those corrupt Turkish officials, the Greek Bishops in Bulgaria." Details that must be given in the following pages will but too strongly corroborate this description; and if we had known Greeks only among their Slavonic congregations in Turkey, we really should not feel that there was much to choose between them and the Osmanlee. The free Greeks have received hard enough measure both from English and French writers, but in their own country they have at least the right to occupy the land; and those will judge most leniently of their imperfections who know how great are their difficulties and temptations. It is otherwise with Greek rulers under Turkish rule, in provinces where the population is not Hellenic; there, having little or no right to be at all, they exhibit themselves in a doubly odious character, and are at once tyrants and slaves. For "old sakes' sake," one does not like calling them Greeks; one would rather distinguish them

as their free brethren do, by the name of "Phanariotes," taken from the prelates' quarter in Stambul.

So much partisanship has crept into every discussion and every general description relating to Turkey-in-Europe, that on matters of opinion it is all but impossible to arrive at any point whereon the opposing champions agree. But when it comes to a citation of bare facts, we have never found anyone deny that neglect and disorganisation, want of roads, and absence of security, exist under Turkish civil administration; nor that superstition, ignorance, and unseemly dissensions prevail under Phanariote prelatry.

The people who suffer under this state of things (and of whom, perhaps, the worst one can say is that they do suffer it) are the mass of the inhabitants of the country, by race Slavonic. Respecting them we had opportunity to satisfy ourselves of a fact which has more than once been questioned, and remained unanswered for want of information. From the Black Sea to the Adriatic, from the mouth of the Vardar to the Danube, the mass of the population speaks, as its native language, the Slavonic tongue. To this rule Mahometans in Bosnia, and many of those in Bulgaria, form no exception. Four hundred years ago they gave up their fathers' creed; they would never give up their fathers' speech. Further, we convinced ourselves that, as the Bohemians had told us, the Slavonic tongue spoken in these regions has only two dialects of which the divergence is at all considerable. These two are the Serbo-Croat and the Bulgarian; but even in them the difference lies in grammatical construction, their vocabulary being the same. Of course we do not here allude to such differences or resemblances as are appreciable by philologists, but to the practical point, how far what is said or written in either of these South Slavonic dialects is understood by the body of the people? In short, how far language really is, as they themselves say it is, a bond of unity? Of this practical resemblance we made some trials:—1st. Having learnt to read the national songs of Serbia, which are in the language of the common people, we tried to read a popular song of Bulgaria, and found that we could make out almost every word. 2nd. It twice happened to us to pass from Bulgarian into Serbian districts with servants who knew no Slavonic tongue except Bulgarian; on both occasions we found that they conversed freely with the Serbs, alike in the Danubian principality and Montenegro.

That the Slavs of Turkey are now governed by Turks and Greeks, and that they are governed ill, are unfortunately obvious facts. That, if delivered from Greeks and Turks, they could govern themselves any better, is a point still open to doubt—even among persons who agree with Mr. Palgrave that "nationality is a good thing, and foreign rule a bad substitute for it." The instance of the Principality of Serbia is often brought forward by the Slavonic rayahs as a sign that they could manage for themselves—at least much better than the Turks manage for them. We are not going to describe the principality of Serbia, so we may here remark, in allusion to this question, that, whatever be the opinion of the general success of the Serbian mode of government, nothing but personal ignorance of the country can make any one deny that the free Serbians have succeeded in introducing certain radical reforms, which the Turks are always talking of, but never carry through. One may sit in Belgrade or Constantinople and infer what one pleases of the state of the interior, but one cannot well travel throughout Serbia and the adjoining Mahometan provinces, and not find out that life and property are far more secure in the principality than in Turkey. Moreover, roads multiply at a much quicker rate; public instruction is pushed on by the Government; the great bugbear of official corruption, both in Church and State, has been put down; the dues of the clergy, of judges, and of civil employés are fixed and sufficient. These are the results of about thirty years' self-government; and, making every allowance for the mistakes and shortcomings of a newly-started régime, one must in fairness admit that they are improvements which countries far richer and larger than Serbia cannot show.

SCUTARI-IN-ALBANIA.

Scutaria-in-Albania, as diplomatists call it, was named by the Turks Iskenderi, probably from associations with the Albanian hero Scanderbeg. The Serbians call it "Skadar," and have some right to call it what they please, seeing that they built its fortress, and held the district about 700 years. Perhaps, however, the oldest name is that of Scodra, still in use among the Albanians, and which is to be found in the account given by Livy of a Roman expedition into these lands.

To the north lies the one great lake in the South Slavonic lands "Skaderski yezero," as it is called in Serbian song; its northern, western, and part of its eastern shores are inhabited by Serbians; the southern and south-eastern by Skipetars. Between Scodra and the Adriatic, uniting the lake with the sea, runs a large stream, the Boyana, considered by the inhabitants as the continuation of a stream flowing from Montenegro, of which the current is perceptible in its course through the lake. This river, which in its two parts forms the link between the country north and south of the lake of Scodra, is called Zenta, or Zeta, and has given its name to this whole district, at least since the days of Justinian.

Thrice, say the old chroniclers, have the inhabitants of Scodra built a city on this site. First they occupied a part of the plain on each side of a small river, the Chiri, and, on this town being destroyed by an incursion of barbarians, they took refuge on the Castle rock, and built a new city round the fortress in the form of a cone. This, which was probably the town occupied by the Serb rulers from the seventh century to 1401, passed from them to the Venetians, the Hungarians, and back to the Venetians, till, in 1477, it was taken by the Turks and ruined, after which the present position was fixed on about a mile further east.

One thing in Scodra Musulmans and Christians have in common, and that is the legend about the building of its castle. Differing in minor details, both agree that the walls could not be raised until a woman was built up in the foundations; both agree, also, that the woman when immured was suckling her infant, and that to this day a moisture on the outer wall represents her milk, and is resorted to as a place of pilgrimage by mothers who lack nourishment for their babes. The terrible story connected with its foundation has invested the castle of Scodra with a reputation of bad luck. Possess it who may—and it has had many masters—it brings no good to any of them. Among other evils, it is found to be more fever-ridden than the town, although standing on higher ground.

Rosapha, the name of the castle of Scutari, is sometimes said by the Albanians to be derived from those of its founders, Rosa and his sister Fa. History as well as tradition imputes its erection to the Serbian rulers, and one tradition calls these the three brothers Merilavchevitch, of whom the eldest, Vukashine, was King of Zeta, under Czar Dushan. M. Hequard, in his description of the fortress, says that it has scarcely been altered from the original plan, except that the Venetians replaced its square towers with bastions, and that the Turks have let much of it go to ruin. It used to contain several subterranean passages, of which one led to the Boyana. The entrance of this passage was lately found, but no one had the courage to venture into it, so it was covered up again, and the trace lost. Two entrances admit to the castle, one of which is a small postern; the other, on the eastern side, has a portal engraved with the lion of St. Mark, and is reached by a broad but ill-paved road winding up the steep ascent.

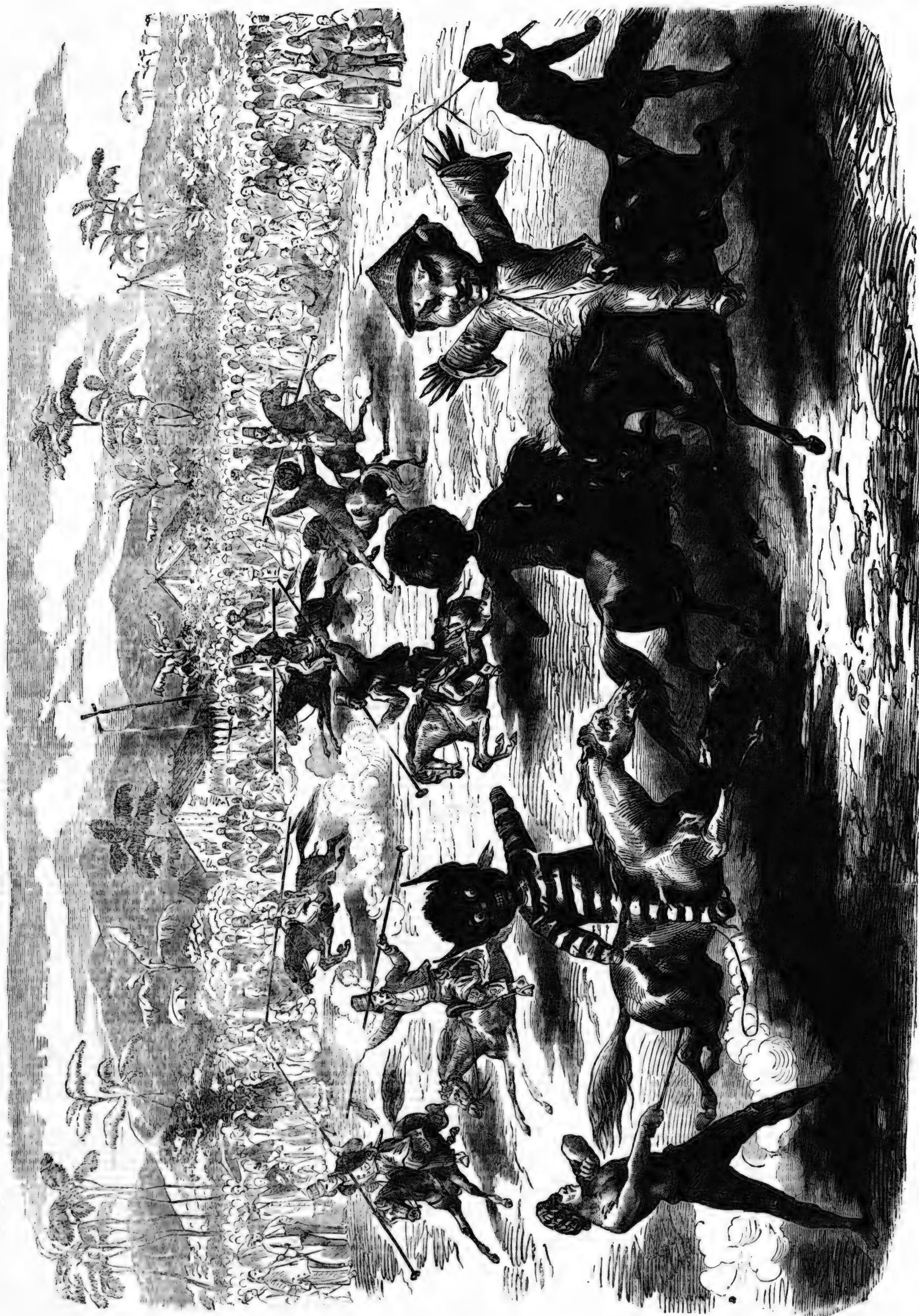
On one side there is the town, built on the slopes of little hills, and stretching far into the plain; its white houses and bright minarets shining through a bower of trees. From another side your eye can follow the course of the Boyana and its tributary, the Chiri, which flow past Scutari towards the seacoast, between banks at first covered with houses and gardens, then with green pasture-land. But the loveliest view is that of the lake—its surface smooth and bright as a silver shield—overlooked by mountains, some barren and some wooded, closed at a distance by its rocky islands, and losing itself in a shoeny haze, through which loom the huge forms of the Montegrine hills.

On the northern shores of this lake lie some spots famous in the early annals of Zeta. The neighbourhood of Podgoritz (hill foot) contains the site of ancient Dioclea, that city to which we have already alluded as the capital of the first Serbian kings. This district has still a Christian and Serbian population, and in all parts of Turkey we heard the fame of its stalwart and handsome men. This fame it has enjoyed from very early times, and shared with certain Herzegovinian districts bordering on Montenegro. The Montegrine marches have given birth to most of the leading Serbian families, among others, those of Nemanyitch, Tsernolevitch, and Petrovitch of Niegban. Indeed, some persons allege that the families of Milosh and of Kara George, before distinguishing themselves in Danubian Serbia, emigrated from the borders of Montenegro.

Another celebrated site is Zabliak, last capital of a Zetan prince before driven to bay on the neighbouring Black Mountain.

We twice traversed the lake of Skadar, once on the Turkish steamer and once in a Montenegrine barge, which last took us from Rieka to visit the Prince's sister in her house at Tsernitza. On neither occasion did we make out a halt at Podgoritz; but the Montenegrins rowed us as closely as possible under the foot of the castle hill of Zabliak, telling us all the time how Ivan Tsernolevitch once lived there in his "white castle," and how, rather than become a Mahometan and hold his land in vassalage of the Sultan, he and his warriors betook themselves to the hills. Near the Montenegrine village Rieka Ivan had a tower called Obod, and somewhere thereabouts he lies buried, or rather sleeping, in a cave, while the Vilas watch him. He and Marko Kraljevitich may be expected to awake about the same time.

This Ivan Tsernolevitch, or Ivan Beg, as the Turks called him, was one of those Princes of Zeta under whom it maintained independence for about one hundred years after the battle of Kosovo. From the time that the rulers of Serbia took to residing in the inland districts, Zeta was frequently the appanage of the second person in the realm. Stephen Némánia assigned it to his second son. Stephen Dushan is said to have held it during the lifetime of his father, and certainly Kral Vukashine held it during the lifetime of Czar Dushan. The Merilavchevitch family was succeeded by that of Balsha, said to be of Albanian origin, and allied by marriage to the then reigning family in Serbia. Ivan Tsernolevitch, a Serbian of Podgoritz, and a relative to the Balshas, was chosen by the people to succeed them. He was nearly allied to the Albanian Prince, George Castriote, better known by his Turkish name Scanderbeg, and shared in most of the victories in which this valiant warrior repulsed the Turks. During these vicissitudes the old capital Dioclea was exchanged for Scodra, Scodra for Zabliak, and at length Zabliak for Cetigne. In Cetigne a chief is to be found at the present day styling himself Prince of the Black Mountain of Zeta.



FESTIVAL AMUSEMENTS IN JAVA.



PRINCESS MARY OF HOHENZOLLERN, AFFIANCED BRIDE OF THE COUNT OF FLANDERS.



THE COUNT OF FLANDERS, BROTHER OF THE KING OF THE BELGIANS.

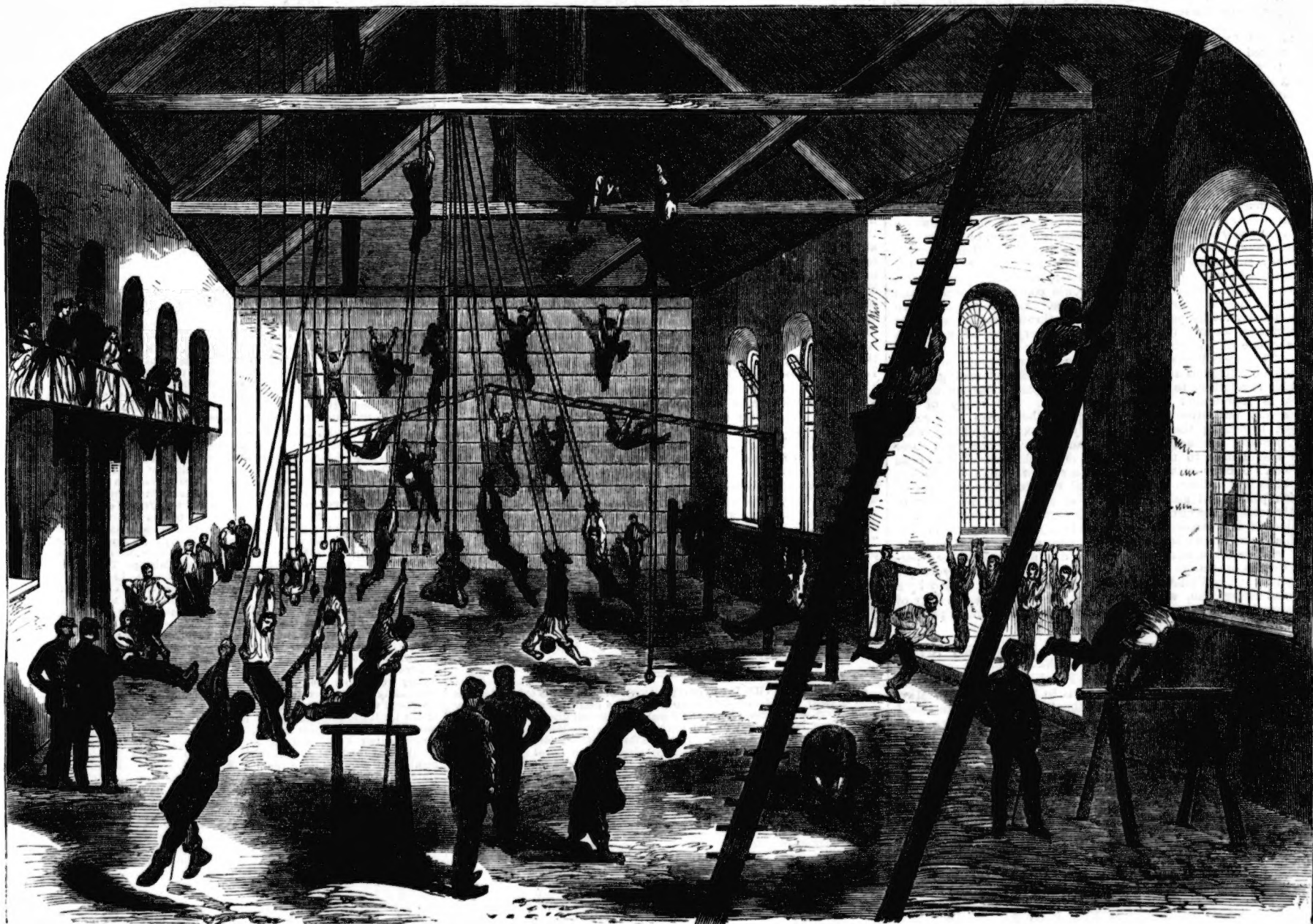
POPULAR AMUSEMENTS IN JAVA.

It is almost startling, now that we seem to have entered on a second winter, and the last days before Lent, which are generally considered to have a touch of spring holiday-making in them, have been so bitterly cold, to receive a communication from a land of sunshine, with a sketch of the popular festivities that our Artist has witnessed. Java is at present one of the few places to which tourists

have not yet directed especial attention; but it is, nevertheless, full of interest, and, from the first day on which the Dutch steamer from Singapore threads the intricate channel of the islands and lands the traveller in low-lying Batavia, there is plenty to see, and much variety of human nature to take account of.

Batavia itself is a place of no little pretension and with many fine buildings; and the habits of the Dutch aristocracy

of the place are so easy and luxurious that a stranger might well be tempted to remain amongst them; but it is in the interior of the island that strange customs, picturesque scenery, and remarkable characteristics are to be found—in the interior or in those quarters of the town known as the Malay, the Chinese, the Arab, and the Javanese campongs, where the native police officers are armed with huge-toothed tongs for clasp-



THE MILITARY GYMNASIUM, CHATHAM.

away misdoer round the neck, or a blunt pitchfork for bringing him down by a sudden prod, or an application of the bow of the weapon to the joint behind the knee. The Chinese are numerous, and for the most part prosperous, in Java; and their broad yellow faces are to be seen everywhere in the business quarters of the capital, where they thrive "like the lotus plant," and afford a striking contrast to the dark, lowering, black-eyed, black-toothed, active Malays; although both frequently wear the same costume—the baggy trousers, called pejamans, and the equally loose baju, half robe, half jacket. One of the most frequent spectacles even in Batavia itself is a "nautch," or dancing-party. The performers assemble either in the streets, or in any compound or open space in front of a house, where a crowd is soon collected. The orchestra consists of several gongs varying in size, and placed on a wooden frame standing on four legs; and there, when struck according to the fancy or skill of the player, each producing a different tone, "discourse most excellent music." Then there is a still larger gong, suspended, like a gipsy's kettle, to three short poles; a drum; another flat, parchment-covered instrument, played with the hands, like a "tun-tum," and a sort of weak-voiced, native fiddle. The danseuse is generally a Javanese woman of the ordinary type, coarse-featured, with high cheek-bones, and a large mouth full of black teeth, but with the usual small and delicate hands and feet. Her hair is dressed in the native fashion, lightly drawn back from the forehead, and rolled in a huge knot at the back, through which knot a large solid silver skewer is thrust. A few flowers are sometimes worn between the knot and the head. The skirt of her dress or sarong is fastened to the waist by a ceinture of silver, and a long kabaya or loose coat, with sleeves to the wrist, forms her upper garment, which reaches to the knee, being fastened in front by a couple of silver brooches, so leaving part of the breast exposed. Beneath this and fastened to the sarong are a number of coloured handkerchiefs folded cornerwise and placed one above another. The dancing of the women is not ungraceful; but the male dancers, who perform only in a pair of trousers and a sarong loosely thrown over the shoulders, are much less attractive. Of course the great occasion for festivity in Java is a wedding; and on such an occasion the procession of the bridegroom, who rides on one of the little native ponies, and, except a silk sarong from the waist downward, is entirely naked, is often a very gay affair. The face, neck, body, and arms of the happy individual are entirely bare of clothes, but at the same time are invariably yellow-washed with some preparation commonly used for that purpose, and in this costume he passes thirty days in riding about to the different campongs. The pony is also decked with finery and is caparisoned somewhat in the Arabic fashion, with bright brass bridle, a collar of bells, and morocco-shoe stirrups. A bearer walks beside the steed to hold a huge gaudy umbrella over the head of the bridegroom, and another attendant fans away the flies with a bunch of peacock's feathers at the end of a pole. These are preceded by musicians and followed by hadjees, relations, boys carrying incense, and others with trays of the indispensable betel, for chewing. Of course, the wedding-feast is a wonderful affair, and the ceremony itself is similar to that of the Egyptians; the bride is, however, yellow-washed, like the bridegroom, and her dress consists solely of a long sarong passing under both arms and across the bosom, and reaching nearly to the ankles. As the happy pair have to pass through a probational period of some weeks, the marriage festivities are, of course, of considerable importance.

One of the most extraordinary festivals in Java is the Slama'an Bromok—that is to say, the blessing or worship of the volcano of that name—a ceremony observed by the inhabitants of the Tosari district with a great deal of feasting. The pilgrims who go to this festival, unlike the Javanese in general, are Brahmans, though not so strict in their rites as their brethren in India; and they assemble around two huts in the neighbourhood of the mountain, where a sort of general fair and merry-making is held—vendors of amulets and charms, bearded Arabs offering perfumes, stalls and stands of eatables, swart natives dressed in gaudy apparel and armed with glittering krissees. Decrepit old men and women, nurses, children, and devotees, forming a motley crowd of a strangely picturesque character.

At a little distance, the priests sit on mats, with myrrh, aloes, spices, and frankincense for offerings, packed in little baskets of plantain leaves. Each priest is protected by a huge umbrella held by an attendant, and wears a great white turban ornamented with gaudy silk scarfs. Clouds of aromatic perfumes arise from wooden censers, baskets of plaited rattan, filled with water, are at the hand of the priest, and near it lies a bouquet of flowers with a handle of plantain leaves. To this place the crowd bring offerings, consisting of coconuts, pine-apples, and other fruits; live chickens, pots, pans, baskets of rice, trays of cakes, strips of calico and silk, coins and other objects; and after some minutes spent in religious ceremonials, each priest dips his bouquet into the holy water and sprinkles the gifts, after which all the holy men bow down and repeat aloud a prayer. Then the oldest priest rises and leads the way to the Bromok, followed by the excited mob, which makes a tremendous rush, for the devotees first at the ridge of the volcano is certain of future good luck. The priests take it easier, and sit down on their mats every now and then for devotional exercises; but when they at last arrive at the mountain the devotees hand them their offerings that they may mumble a few words over them; after which the various articles are hurled into the crater, with the repetition of a prayer or wish. Some of the live fowls contrive to escape, and others are reserved for a barbarous game. As the people return down the mountain young chickens are thrown into the air, to be scrambled for as they fall to the ground, every one being anxious to secure one of the poor birds, or even a leg or a wing, for good luck. The superstitions of the Javanese are very strange, and their legends are numerous and frequently remarkably interesting. It is probably in reference to some of the latter that a custom obtains which is represented in our Illustration. At many of the games and festivities the boys disguise themselves in strange dresses, increasing their size laterally by skillful padding until they assume the appearance of monstrous dwarfs, and bear some resemblance to the pixies and minor demons of European folk-lore. One favourite character is a sort of goblin Chinaman; and when half a dozen of these padded, mis-sized beings mount on skittish ponies and gallop wildly after each other in a sort of ghostly scene of the circle, the effect is something rather startling. This custom is occasionally developed into a regular performance, in which some of the actors play the part of tilters and urge on their wild career armed with long lances, with which they perform a series of strange evolutions, and mingled with the grotesque distortions and buffoneries of the masques, are kept in play by a half-clad native, who, with a long-thonged whip, does the duty of circus-master when they go through their entertainment in public.

MARRIAGE OF THE COUNT OF FLANDERS AND PRINCESS MARY OF HOHENZOLLERN.

The marriage of Philip, Count of Flanders, and Maria Louisa, Princess of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, is to be celebrated in May, and we are able this week to publish the Portraits of the intended bride and bridegroom. This union has already provoked many political comments, the hesitation of the King of Prussia and Prince Hohenzollern having been attributed to the situation of the kingdom of Belgium, which is, it is said, regarded as precarious. It has also been rumoured, with about as much authority as can be claimed for most such idle reports, that our own Queen has had something to do with deferring the event; but neither at Paris, Berlin, nor Brussels has this marriage been regarded as having any political importance. Philip, Count of Flanders and second son of the late Leopold, King of Belgium, was born on March 24, 1837, and bears a considerable resemblance to his father. The frank courtesy and affability of his manners render him extremely popular in the country, and he holds the rank of General of Brigade in the Belgian army. It will be remembered that five years ago the Chamber of Deputies at Athens chose him as King of Greece; but Leopold I. refused for his son the crown which he had himself refused before accepting the crown of Belgium. The Count of Flanders was

also chosen by acclamation Hospodar of the United Principalities of Roumania, after the late disturbances and the fall of Prince Couza; but he preferred a secondary position in his own country, where he would be able to support the interests of a brother, to whom he is sincerely attached, to the honours of being accepted as chief of a foreign nation. Being early familiarised with the study of great public interests, the Count is at the head of many important movements, and has been nominated honorary president of the Belgian Commission at the Paris Universal Exhibition. Princess Mary of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, who was born on Nov. 17, 1845, belongs to one of the most ancient and illustrious families of Germany. The family of the young Princess is divided into two branches: the Hohenzollern-Heckingen and the Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen. The former was raised to the princely dignity in 1623 and the latter in 1695. In 1849 the two sovereign Princes of Hohenzollern ceded their territory to the King of Prussia, and the present Prince Sigmaringen succeeded his father, who died in 1862, when he received the title of Highness, with all the prerogatives attaching thereto. The future bride of the Count of Flanders is the only daughter of the Prince; but she has five brothers: the eldest, Leopold Stephen, married Princess Antonia, daughter of Ferdinand, King of Portugal; and the family of Hohenzollern is already allied to that of Coburg. The second brother of the Princess became Hospodar of the United Principalities after that dignity had been refused by the Count of Flanders. The beauty of the Princess, who is a blonde of the true Germanic type, is the theme of no little admiration, and her virtues and accomplishments are said to be in no way inferior to her remarkable personal endowments.

MILITARY GYMNASIUM, CHATHAM.

AMONGST the many means adopted to improve the condition of the soldier perhaps the gymnasium may not be considered the least, as, affording various modes of exercise, it materially contributes to the health and improves the gait of the soldier. We annex an Engraving of the Military Gymnasium at Chatham, which is capable of providing exercises of varied descriptions for 400 men at a time. Here may be seen a number of men in one apartment scaling a wall with scarce any holdfast to assist them; there others climbing poles, ascending ropes suspended aloft; swinging from rope to rope, and thus going the whole length of the building; now leaping extraordinary heights; then tumbling in various ways; now walking on the hands with the body inverted, and again leaping with a long pole. Some may be seen walking up inclined planes, assisted by the hands; others, mounting, suspend themselves by the bars of ladders, ranging the whole length of the building, and thus travel along by their hands with great ease. A company may be seen with dumb-bells in each hand—others, with bars—going through various exercises: the whole tending to expand the chest and prevent diseases which too often have afflicted our military men when subject to sedentary habits.

Other rooms are appropriated to sword, single-stick, and foil exercise; also fixed bayonet exercise. In this building the officers as well as the men have their drills; and frequently may be seen the civilian trying his hand at gymnastics for the benefit of his health.

That which the War Department has provided for the military in Chatham would be an acquisition to many a large town or city.

We may add that a magnificent building—the soldiers' institution—has been erected, in which are provided a variety of amusements for the military.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

WE understand that Mr. Gye has secured the right of representing Verdi's "Don Carlos" in English. That work is now on the point of being produced at the French Opera.

The old Philharmonic Society has issued its programme, from which it appears that Professor Sterndale Bennett, who resigned the conductorship last year, has been replaced by Mr. W. G. Cousins. Professor Bennett will still assist the society in the capacity of composer, and has promised, for the coming series of concerts, an additional movement to the symphony written and produced for the first time in 1865. New works are also expected from Mr. Arthur Sullivan, M. Gounod, and M. Jules Benedict. Among the standard pieces to be performed in the course of the season, Beethoven's grand choral symphony, Beethoven's choral fantasia, and Mendelssohn's "Walpurgis Night" are specially mentioned. The programme of the first concert, which will take place on March 11, includes Mendelssohn's symphony in C minor (No. 1), Professor Bennett's overture, "The Naiads," Beethoven's symphony in A (No. 7), and Cherubini's overture to "Les Abencérages," as the great orchestral works. The instrumental soloist will be Herr Joachim, who is to play Spohr's violin concerto (No. 9); and Miss Louisa Pyne and Mr. W. H. Cummings will be the singers.

The New Philharmonic Society and the Musical Society of London have not yet put forth their programmes.

"The Wandering Minstrels" gave a concert on Saturday evening at the Hanover-square Rooms. Amateurs are fond of performing for charitable purposes, and their desire in that respect is one that no right-minded person would wish to discourage. The concert of Saturday was in aid of the building-fund of the Female School of Art—an admirable institution, which we are glad to find has received special encouragement from all the members of the Royal family. Thus, "The Wandering Minstrels" had the honour of performing, on Saturday evening, under the immediate patronage of the Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales, Prince and Princess Louis of Hesse, the Duchess of Cambridge, Princess Mary and Prince Teck. Presentations, too, have been made to the society by Professor Donaldson, of casts; by Mr. Wallis and Mr. Gambart, of tickets for the Winter Exhibition; by Mr. William Carpenter, of three oil paintings; and by Mr. Elijah Walton, of his work on the Camel. Professor Westmacott, moreover, has given admissions to his lectures at the Royal Academy; and Mr. Digby Wyatt, Mr. Bonami, and other gentlemen, have consented to deliver gratuitous lectures at the school. It has been truly remarked, however, that the chief benefactors of this institution have hitherto been the forty gentlemen, who, with their captain, the Hon. Seymour J. G. Egerton, compose the formidable band known as "The Wandering Minstrels." These accomplished amateurs actually play the symphonies of Beethoven and Mendelssohn, and such overtures as those to "Masaniello," "William Tell," and "Oberon," all three of which were included in Saturday's programme. Many of the violinists are very able players; but the general tone of the stringed instruments, and therefore of the whole orchestra, is rough. In Mr. Whitworth Jones (formerly known as Mr. Whitworth) "The Wandering Minstrels" have an experienced singer, and in Mr. Ernest Clay an admirable accompanist.

EXHIBITION OF THE INDUSTRIES OF THE BLIND.—This exhibition has been recently opened, and will be continued for a limited period, at 34, New Bond-street, Messrs. Basil Woll and Sons having kindly given the gratuitous use of their large gallery for the purpose. The exhibition is arranged in connection with the Alexandra Institute for the Blind, 468, New Oxford-street, which is under the immediate patronage of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales. The articles exhibited have not been made for exhibition, but have been taken from the ordinary stock of the institutions in which they were made, and the exhibition itself was prepared at a week's notice, so that the public have a fair opportunity of judging as to the capacities of the blind for industrial training. The articles shown were made at sixteen different institutions, which are named in a descriptive paper. They comprise articles of general utility, as well as many fancy and light articles. The display is admirably effective, the arrangement of the varied objects being made with artistic taste. Arrangements are matured by which, through the kindness of several ladies and gentlemen, a short programme of music will be given every Wednesday and Saturday afternoons and on Monday evenings. The exhibition, we trust, only requires to be generally known to ensure greater success than we believe has hitherto attended this philanthropic movement. Unhappily, the fact has been undisputed that the amount of public sympathy for the blind has been of a comparatively modified character. Let us hope that this may no longer be the case. What cause ought to appeal more strongly to Christian charity?

SCOTLAND AND THE REFORM BILL.

THE amount or proportion of representation to be given to Scotland under the Earl of Derby's Reform Bill, is like all the other parts of the main question, involved in mystery. Like everything, too, on which Mr. Disraeli has given explanations, it has been, as he himself states, the subject of "misconception." So, upon Friday night, he set himself to remove that misconception, and to interpret his former meaning. But again the interpreter is the harder to be understood of the two: not only is it impossible to make out what Mr. Disraeli intends to propose, but the argumentation in which he expatiates throws the whole facts and reasoning of that part of the question into utter confusion. The first exposition given of the Reform Bill showed that it is not intended to reduce the number of English members; thirty are to be taken away from certain English constituencies, but all the thirty are to be given to certain other English constituencies. This, it must be confessed, looked very like a design to refuse any additional representation to Scotland, for it is only from England that seats could fairly be taken, and in all previous bills which gave additional seats to large constituencies in Scotland, they were, as needs they must be, taken from small constituencies in England. Hence, doubtless, the dual form of Sir William Stirling Maxwell's question, whether it was intended to give any additional representation to Scotland, and, if so, from what source it was to be derived. Laying aside as out of the question the taking away of any representation from Ireland, there were only two answers which even so ingenious a person as Mr. Disraeli could give to this question, if he intended to answer it at all. He might have said no to the first clause of the question, and there an end. Or he might have said yes to the first clause, and to the second have replied that the source from which the additional representation was to be supplied was an enlargement of the numbers of the House of Commons. But he said neither yes nor no, nor anything between nor anything beyond. He argued that as the bill, the substance of which he had stated to the House, had reference only to the representation of England and Wales, there was no reason to infer from the provisions of that bill the provisions of the bill for Scotland. The only conclusion at which Ministers had arrived was that England and Wales had not "too much" representation—it did not follow that they had concluded that Scotland had enough. But in one sense that does follow; and in the only other sense a great deal more follows. Unless it is intended to increase the total number of members—the statement of which intention, if it exists, was not only easy but incumbent—a conclusion that England has not too much representation is a conclusion that Scotland is not to have any more. Further, if it is concluded that, according to property, population, and so on, England has not too much representation, then, on the same data, it must be concluded that Scotland has a great deal too little. Scotland may or may not get what she is entitled to; but there is no process by which England can be shown entitled to retain her present number of members which does not show at the same time that Scotland is entitled to more than her present number. "The conclusion," adds Mr. Disraeli, "at which we have arrived is, that representation might be more efficiently distributed." Well, why in the process of distribution draw a line at the Tweed, and lay out of view that portion of the United Kingdom in which, as far as regards addition, "efficient distribution" is most required? There is another question raised by Mr. Disraeli's speech, and it is not the only question to which the Conservative Ministers, in their handling of Reform, have given enlargement and new difficulties. The bill of last year, for instance, gave seven new members to Scotland and took seven away from England, making a difference of fourteen in the balance between the two kingdoms. Suppose that Mr. Disraeli now gives seven new members to Scotland, not by taking them from England, but by enlargement of the House, Scotland would have little more than half the gain which Mr. Disraeli was so active in preventing her obtaining last year. It is he, not we, that pits one kingdom against another, and "cannot at all admit that, in attempting to improve the representation of England and Wales, we are bound at all to consider the claims of other parts of the United Kingdom." If in this matter England and Scotland are to be treated separately, as somewhat opposing powers, and not as Great Britain, then it will become the more just and necessary that the balance shall be adjusted with arithmetical accuracy, which would give Scotland much more than we either expect or very much care for.—*Scotsman*.

A HOUSEHOLDER NAMED CATFORD was summoned to serve as a juror on an inquest about to be held, and on his return, after discharging that duty, found that his wife had murdered her only son, a boy four years of age, and then cut her own throat. Both had been dead upwards of an hour.

LORD LOFTUS, the British Ambassador, in talking with Count Bismarck recently, expressed his astonishment at the large number of particularist elections (where the member seemed to ignore everything but his own province) among the populations of North Germany. "Does that astonish you?" said M. de Bismarck, "if each German was rich enough, he would be delighted to pay for a King all to himself."

METROPOLITAN IMPROVEMENT RATE.—Mr. Ayrton's bill, reciting that a portion of the charge for permanent improvements in the metropolis ought to be borne by the owners of rateable property therein, proposes to enact as follows:—That the Metropolitan Board of Works, in assessing on the several parts of the metropolis the several sums to be charged thereon for defraying the expenses of the execution of the Metropolitan Management Acts of 1855, 1856, and 1862, shall distinguish as being assessed for a special rate, to be called the "metropolis improvement rate," such parts of those several sums as the Board from time to time shall think fit, not exceeding in any year 4d. in the pound on the rateable annual value of the property in the several parts of the metropolis. The rate is to be applied towards permanent improvements authorised by Parliament, or to which the City Commissioners of Sewers, or any vestry or district board, contribute, out of rates at their disposal, at least half the cost. The rate is to be borne partly by the occupier and partly by the landlord, or the several landlords or lessors; the occupier is to deduct from his next payment of rent "for each pound thereof one half of the sum which he pays for the metropolis improvement rate in respect of each pound of rateable value, whether the rent is greater or less than the rateable value."

HOW TO AVOID STRIKES.—A meeting of the operatives connected with the Nottingham lace trade was held in the Assembly-rooms of that town, on Saturday evening. Part of the business of the meeting was the attempt to adopt a plan whereby disputes between employers and employed should be brought before a properly constituted board of arbitration to avoid strikes, such board to be composed partly of masters and partly of operative lacemakers. A similar board exists in the hosiery trade of Nottingham, and at the last meeting of the Chamber of Commerce it was suggested that a like board in connection with the lace trade should be established. There was then, however, considerable difficulty in the way. The subject was discussed on Saturday evening, and the following resolution was put to the meeting:—"Resolved, that we, members of the United Society of Operative Lacemakers, in quarterly meeting assembled, being fully aware of the great evils arising from strikes and lock-outs, and believing in the great benefits derived by the hosiery trade from the establishment of a board of arbitration, hereby express our desire to establish a permanent board of arbitration to prevent strikes and lock-outs, and are willing to meet the employers in the lace trade to endeavour to form the same." The executive committee were in favour of the resolution, and the meeting was adjourned for a week in order to allow time for full consideration.

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE BOAT INSTITUTION.—On Thursday a meeting of this institution was held at its house, John-street, Adelphi—Thomas Chapman, Esq., F.R.S., V.P., in the chair. The secretary having read the minutes of the previous meeting, a communication was read from General Knollys transmitting, on behalf of the Prince of Wales, a donation of 100g. to the institution, and expressing the thanks of his Royal Highness to Mr. Lewis, its secretary, for the aid he afforded the Prince on the day of the annual meeting of the society. A reward of £25 was voted to pay the expenses of the Caistor life-boat of the institution in going off and saving, on the night of the 8th ult., during a very heavy gale from the S.S.W., the crew of three men from the sloop Telegraph of Sunderland, which had become a total wreck on the Barber sand, off Caistor. The same valuable life-boat was the means, on the night of the 28th ult., in conjunction with the Scraby life-boat, of bringing safely into Yarmouth, during blowing weather, the crew of five men and the fishing-smack Shiver, of Yarmouth, which had stranded on the Inner Barber sand. The Dunbar life-boat of the society had also succeeded in bringing safely into harbour the ship Cameronian, of Liverpool, and her crew of twenty men, which vessel, during heavy weather, was in distress off Dunbar. A reward of £6 was voted to the crew of the Aberdever life-boat for rescuing the crew of four men of the schooner Gratitude, of Aberystwith, which was totally wrecked on the North bank, Aberdever, on the 28th ult. Rewards amounting to £67 were also voted for various other life-boat services to distressed vessels and their crews during the past month. The silver medal of the institution and a copy of its vote on parchment were ordered to be presented to Mr. William Nelson, R.N., commanding officer of H.M. Coast-guard cruiser Eliza, and £5 to his boat's crew of four men, who in a small boat and at much risk of life rescued the crew of five men of the brigantine Jane, of Cork, which was in a distressed state, and which a few hours afterwards was totally wrecked on the coast of Waterford. Various rewards were likewise voted to the crews of fishing and shore boats for services in saving life from wrecks on our coasts. During the past month a legacy of £30 had been received from the executors of the late Mrs. Mary Clarke, of South Lynn. Also, a contribution of £100, from the trustees of the late Thomas Boys, Esq., of Hove, Brighton. It was also reported that legacies had recently been left to the institution by the late Mrs. Anne Frith, of Deptford, £100; and the late John Abrahams, Esq., of Fairfield, to the Liverpool branch, £100. The institution was about to send in a few days a large life-boat, transporting carriage, and equipment complete to the Paris Exhibition, where a commodious boathouse is being prepared for their reception. Payments amounting to upwards of £1000 were ordered to be made on various life-boat establishments. Reports were read from the inspector and the assistant-inspector of life-boats on their recent visits to the coast. The proceedings then terminated.

